Carter wins Nobel for quest of democracy, human rights

Story below, Col. 1

PDI bags 4 business journalism awards

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer won four of seven awards given this year by the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines, the country's biggest organization of business reporters and editors.

Three INQUIRER reporters—Doris C. Dumlao, Abigail L. Ho and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.—were cited for their exemplary

INQUIRER/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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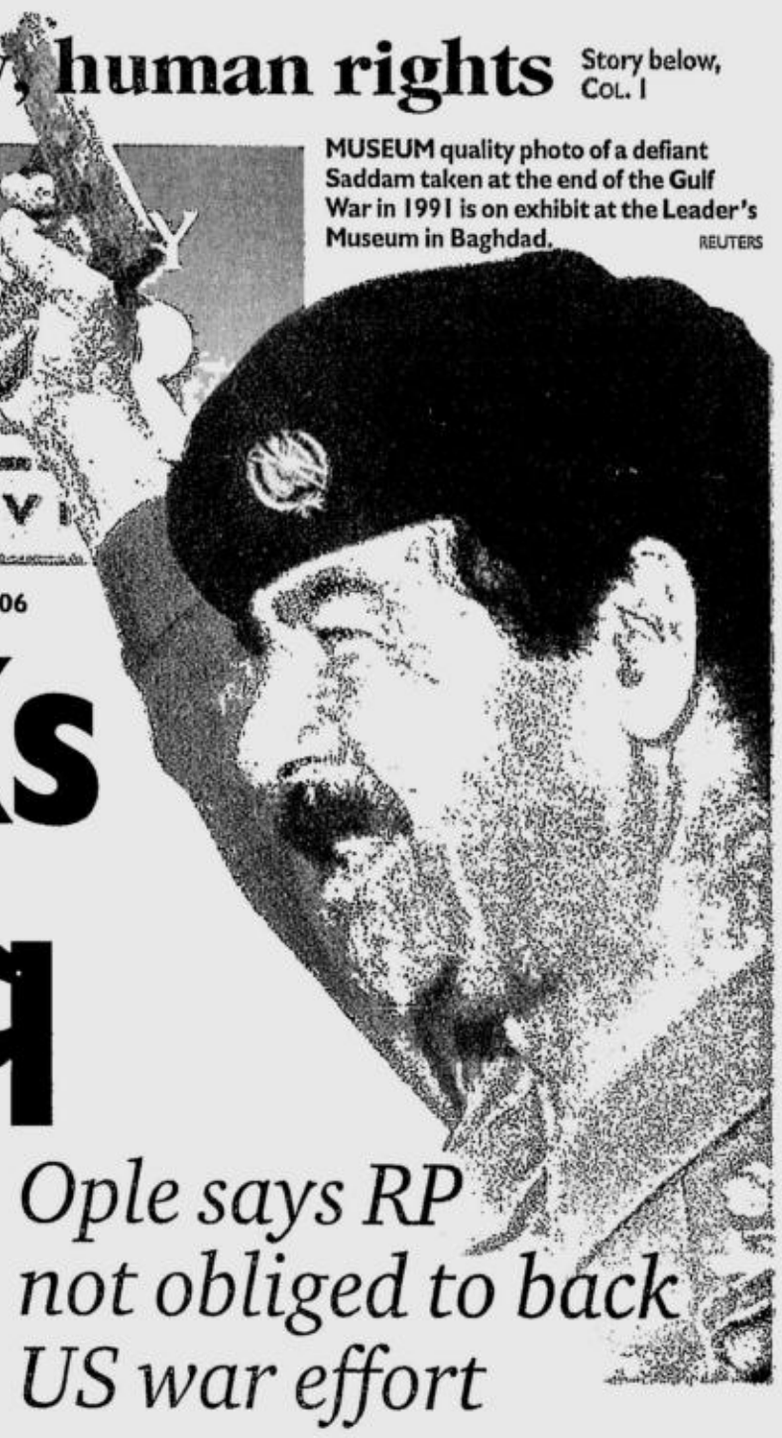
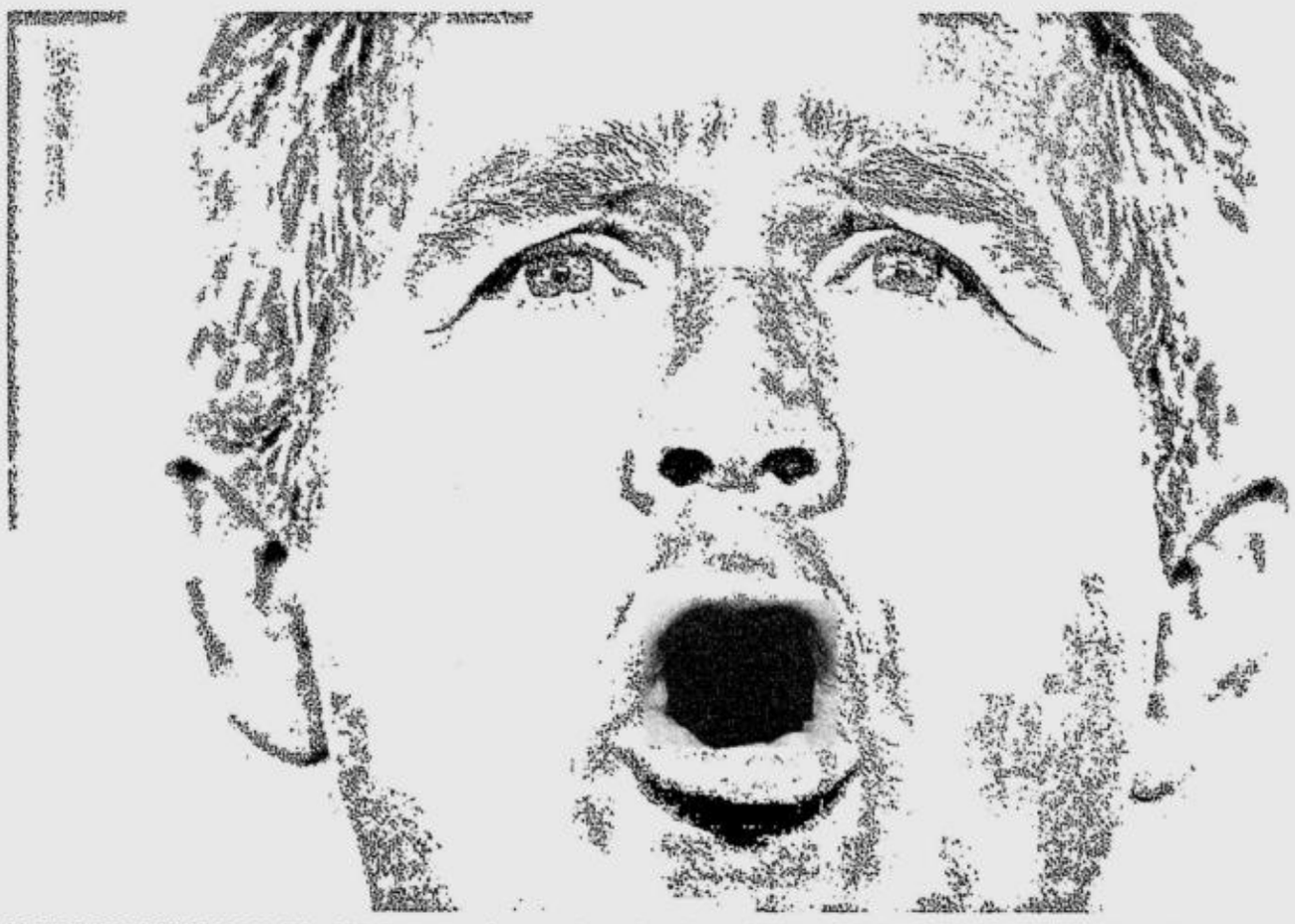
Saturday, October 12, 2002 ★ 72 pages / 6 sections / vol. 17 / no. 306



MUSEUM quality photo of a defiant Saddam taken at the end of the Gulf War in 1991 is on exhibit at the Leader's Museum in Baghdad. REUTERS

US Congress OKs Bush war vs Iraq



US PRESIDENT BUSH: The US Congress has spoken clearly to the international community ... Inaction is not an option. Disarmament is a must. REUTERS

Ople says RP not obliged to back US war effort

WASHINGTON—US lawmakers gave US President George W. Bush solid bipartisan support for a strike on Iraq. It sets the stage for a showdown next week over whether the United Nations Security Council will also threaten the use of force to compel Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disarm.

Under intense pressure from the White House, which wanted a big bipartisan majority in Congress to strengthen its hand in its confrontation with Iraq, the Democratic-led Senate passed the war powers resolution 77-23. The Republican-led House of Representatives passed it 296-133 on Thursday.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the Philippine government was "not obliged to support any resolution passed by a foreign legislature" even as he noted that the US vote did not set a specific timetable for any military force against Iraq.

"We don't intend to participate in the war against Iraq, but of course will continue our firm commitment to support the global war against terrorism," Ople told reporters shortly after meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the United Arab Emirates, President Macapagal's "crisis manager" for the Middle East said the Philippine government had long anticipated the US Congress vote.

"I was expecting it. Now more than ever we should be prepared for any eventuality," Roy Cimatu, retired chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said by phone from the UAE, where he was meeting with Philippine Embassy officials to firm up contingency plans.

"This only validates the wisdom of the President to activate the Philippines' preparedness plan," he said.

Cimatu is on a two-week mission to check on the condition of an estimated 1.2 million Filipino workers in the Middle East and prepare evacuation plans in case of a US strike on Iraq.

However, Cimatu said the President had yet to order the evacuation of Filipinos from the region in the wake of the latest development.

President Macapagal had earlier backed US charges against Iraq and offered to extend "political, security and humanitarian assistance" in case war broke in the Middle East.

"The US Congress has spoken clearly to the international community and the United Nations Se-

US CONGRESS/ A6

Jimmy Carter wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO—Former US President Jimmy Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize for his quest for democracy and human rights in an award that also faulted Washington's drive to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Carter repeatedly declined to comment about the US Congress' resolution. In the past, however, he has said that it would be a tragic and costly error for the United States to attack Iraq without support of the United Nations.

Carter, 78, was cited by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for "his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights and to promote economic and social development."

Awarding the Nobel Prize to Carter "can also be interpreted as a criticism of the position" of the US administration, Gunnar Berge, the chair of the Nobel committee, told reporters just hours after the US Congress gave President George W. Bush authority to go to war against Iraq. *(See banner story.)*

"In a situation currently marked by threats of the use of power, Carter has stood by the principles that conflicts must as far as possible be resolved through mediation and international cooperation based on international law, respect for human rights and economic development," the committee said in

JIMMY/ A6

What to do with Imelda's gowns?

By Blanche S. Rivera *in Manila*
and Cristina Arzadon *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

FOUR truckloads and no end in sight.

Counting the Marcoses' gowns, toiletries, perfume, sports items, accessories and even unused slippers being dumped on the Presidential Commission on Good Government could take as long as the Marcos cases pending in the courts.

PCGG Commissioner Victoria Avena said there were already 300 designer gowns and dresses in their custody as of yesterday, and the trucks were still coming.

WHAT/ A17

Tesda boss turns tables on Philskills

By Nini Valera and Blanche S. Rivera

THE TECHNICAL Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) yesterday turned the tables on its accuser, the Philippine Skills Development Foundation, saying the private group may have been using the Asean Skills Competition in Jakarta, Indonesia, to generate money for itself.

Tesda director general Dante Liban said it was Philskills which had not yet accounted for the P500,000 it received from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"Where did the money go? It's their obligation to inform Tesda how they spent the money, and not the other way around," Liban said in a press briefing yesterday.

Last Wednesday, Philskills accused Tesda of filching some P3.7 million meant to fund Philippine participation in the yearly regional event, which includes such skills as dressmaking and cabinet-making. The fourth Asean skills olympics ended last Thursday.

Yesterday, Liban denied the accusation. He said that some P3.4 million of the fund was actually given to the agency by order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, after Philskills failed to raise money for the delegates' training, air-

TESDA/ A17

OUT of the depths, a woman herself wounded in the bombing, cries out in anguish as she lies beside the lifeless body of her 10-year-old son. AP

Extortionists behind blast, says Cotabato governor

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Edwin Fernandez *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato officials yesterday cleared the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army of responsibility for the Thursday explosion at a bus terminal that killed at least six people (not eight, as earlier reported).

Gov. Emmanuel Pinol said the attack was the handiwork of a group trying to extort from the management of the Weena Bus Co. "It's definitely not the NPA ...they're not involved. Not even the MILF, although some of our suspects are former members of the MILF," he said.

Pinol issued the statement after meeting with Matalam Mayor Oscar Valdevieso, whose family owns the bus company. He said Valdevieso gave him information that established extortion as the main motive for the bombing.

But in Manila, Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor expressed the belief that the attack was a joint project of secessionist and communist rebels.

"Definitely, this was done by groups trying to deliver a message ... and in all probability, this was part of their extortion activities," Defensor said in Taglish.

EXTORTIONISTS/ A17

Gov't sets final terms with Reds

By TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

"WE are for peace, but we are not in favor of negotiations that are interminable."

Two days after the President claimed that 95 percent of Filipinos no longer favored peace talks with communist rebels, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government was preparing a make-or-break "final peace document" to end the 30-year insurgency.

Asked what would happen if the National Democratic Front disagreed with the final terms, Reyes replied: "Sometimes we have to wage war to have peace."

To help bring the rebels back to the peace table, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople is leaving for Europe today to convince European allies to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as terrorist organizations.

But in San Fernando, Pampanga, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III struck a more hopeful note, saying peace talks with the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organization which includes the CPP and the NPA, will resume before the end of the year, after more than a year in recess. He said a proposed fi-

GOV'T/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/12/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

Schilling back, tags Abu leader

By Michael Lim Ubac

JEFFREY Edward Schilling, the American who was held hostage for eight months by the Abu Sayyaf bandits, has returned to testify against his captors and yesterday positively identified a jailed Abu Sayyaf leader and his comrade as among those who abducted him in Patikul, Sulu, on Aug. 29, 2000.

During a hearing before Judge Aleli Acebo at the Pasig regional trial court, Schilling said Hector Janjalani and Amin Ajijun, who are both detained at the Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, were among those who kidnapped him.

Schilling was rescued on April 12, 2001 in Luuk, Sulu, by police and Marines under Col. Renato Miranda after President Macapagal-Arroyo launched an all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf and left immediately for the United States.

He arrived here this week accompanied by two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to testify at the trial of Janjalani and Ajijun who have been charged, along with ASG leaders Khadaffy and Hector Janjalani, Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya and Hamsiraji Sali, with kidnapping and serious illegal detention.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that with Schilling's testimony, "the prosecution rested its case."

It will be the turn of the defense to present evidence.

Perez said that from his discussions with state prosecutors, "the testimony of Mr. Schilling was perfect and he was able to identify the persons being prosecuted who were present at the time."

Perez thanked the FBI and Schilling for their cooperation. Without them, "it would be very difficult for us to secure a conviction," he said.

"This is a clear indication that with political will and close cooperation, we could address terrorism effectively and we will fight terrorism wherever it surfaces and we will cooperate with one another in eradicating this menace to society," he said.

Schilling, who testified for two days, was asked to recall the events that happened when he was in Jolo. He was also questioned on why he went to Jolo in 2000.

He said he had gone there to get the Abu Sayyaf to help stop the gossip about him and his wife, "that we were living in."

JEFFREY Schilling is surrounded by FBI and NBI agents at the Department of Justice building in Manila where he met with Secretary Hernani Perez.

ERIK ARAZAS

"She believed that she could get the help of Abu Sabaya (Aldam Tilao). She was afraid that if I would not go with her, something bad would happen to her so I agreed to go with my wife to Abu Sabaya," he said.

Schilling's wife, Ivy Osana, is the niece of Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot.

Schilling, who now works as a college counselor in the US, admitted that his release had been negotiated.

"I was advised that there was standing negotiations of P10 million (sic) ... I don't know exactly who did the negotiations. I heard it from my captors but there was no ransom."

Asked whether he would still be willing to travel around the Philippines despite his experience, he said: "Yes, maybe not in Jolo but in Manila."

Schilling went to the justice department after the hearing yesterday to "personally" thank Perez and the state prosecutors.

"I would like to thank the secretary for his diligence in the prosecution of the ASG and of course the prosecution team," he said.

The kidnapping charges were filed by the DOJ on Sept. 21, 2000.

Because of the security risks, the justice department had asked the high court to transfer the venue of the trial from Zamboanga to Metro Manila. The Supreme Court ordered the Pasig court to handle the controversial case early this year.

JANJALANI

Janjalani and Ajijun were arraigned on July 18, 2002, allowing the prosecution to proceed to pre-trial on Aug. 7 and 8, 2002.

During the Aug. 8 and 19 hearings, Ustadz Noor Mohammad Umug, a captured Abu Sayyaf member who turned state witness testified how the bandit group had abducted Schilling.

"He also positively identified the accused in open court as among the abductors," Perez said.

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Abu leader with P1-M bounty on head captured

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An alleged Abu Sayyaf leader who is wanted for the murder of US nationals was arrested here yesterday after weeks of surveillance, the Western Mindanao police chief, Supt. Simeon Dizon, said.

Daim Damsain, who carried a P1-million bounty on his head, was hiding out in barangay Curuan here when he was captured, Dizon said.

He was arrested on the outskirts of Zamboanga City where a US serviceman and three Filipinos were killed in a bomb attack attributed to the Abu Sayyaf on Oct. 2.

Dizon said Damsain was "still under tactical interrogation" but would soon be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dizon declined to give further details, but police sources told Agence France Presse that Damsain was included in the military's "order of battle" list.

He is believed to have helped carry out the kidnapping of three US nationals and a group of Filipino tourists from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan last year.

Two of the US hostages, Martin Burnham and Guillermo Sobero, were killed while in captivity, while Martin's wife, Gracia, was rescued in June this year.

Most of the Filipino hostages were later freed, reportedly in exchange for hefty ransom payments. But other hostages were beheaded.

Police sources said Damsain was also being questioned in connection with the Oct. 2 bomb attack near the military's Camp Enrile here which killed the US soldier and three Filipinos and wounded 20 people, including another American.

An ex-Abu Sayyaf member who has been helping in the military's campaign against the bandit group, confirmed that a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader had indeed sought refuge in Curuan.

But the former bandit said he was not certain that it was Damsain, whom he knew by the name of Abu Dadnaim, who fell into the hands of authorities.

He described Dadnaim as being from barangay Kumalarang in Isabela City in Basilan and a sub-commander for the Abu Sayyaf faction headed by Hamsiraji Sali alias Jose Ramirez.

The former bandit, who wanted to be identified only as Ateng, said he could only confirm that it was indeed Dadnaim whom the police arrested if he sees the suspect. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

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House absentee voting bill a lot tougher

By Juliet L. Javellana

FUNDAMENTAL differences between the Senate and House versions of the absentee voting bill are expected to make it hard for lawmakers to reconcile the measures.

Unlike the Senate version, the House bill excludes immigrants from voting in Philippine national elections. It also prescribes absentee voting for only 16 countries, and disallows registration and voting by mail.

Earlier this week the Senate approved its version, but the House failed to do the same last Wednesday for lack of quorum.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House foreign relations committee, said kinks in the bill had been ironed out, but that it wouldn't be approved until Tuesday next week.

In the latest version of House Bill 3570, only qualified overseas Filipinos who have not renounced Philippine citizenship are allowed to vote in the elections for president, vice president, senators and partylist representatives, as well as plebiscites and referenda.

The bill disqualifies immigrants or Filipinos permanently residing abroad and have pledged allegiance to a foreign country.

This would bring down the number of expected overseas voters from seven million to four million, a large chunk off what was originally foreseen to be a decisive factor in national elections.

Lozada identified the 16 countries in House Bill 3570 as: the United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Australia, Greece, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Spain.

He said qualified voters should register and vote "in person," in 19 counting sites to be set up in these countries by Philippine embassies and consulates.

The bone of contention in the House is the composition of the Board of Election Inspectors that will canvass the overseas votes.

Many congressmen did not approve of leaving the procedure in the hands of diplomats.

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Erratum

In the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines' (FINEX) 28th Annual Conference Supplement, which appeared on pages I-1 to I-8 of the Friday, Oct. 11 issue of the Inquirer, three 2002 FINEX Week Committee members' pictures were inadvertently omitted. These were:

ROBERTO R. REJANO
Member

LORETA G. MANGILIT
Member

EMMA A. SENORIN
Member

Our sincerest apologies for the oversight.

Sulu sultan launches drive to gather 10M signatures for Sabah

By Philip C. Tubeza

SABAH might unite Muslim and Christian Filipinos, for once.

The Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo yesterday launched a drive for 10 million signatures to pressure Malaysia into peacefully returning the contested area to the Philippines.

Datu Padilla U. Pundaodaya, spokesperson of the Sultanate Action for Brotherhood and Homeland (or aptly, Sabah), said the group would seek the participation of all Filipinos.

"This is not only for the sultanate," he said during the campaign's launch at the Golden Mosque in Quiapo, Manila. "We are calling on our Christian brothers and sisters in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to sign."

The group accused Malaysia of being "the greatest landgrabber of the 20th century."

"If nothing happens (even with the signatures)," Pundaodaya warned, "we will go to war!" Supporters responded to the declaration with shouts of "Allahu Akbar (God is great)!"

The group leaders announced they would soon open sign-up centers in Plaza Miranda, various malls, and other public places.

Pundaodaya said collected signatures would be delivered to the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

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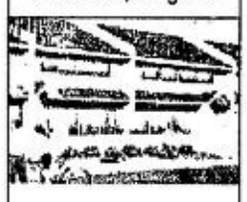

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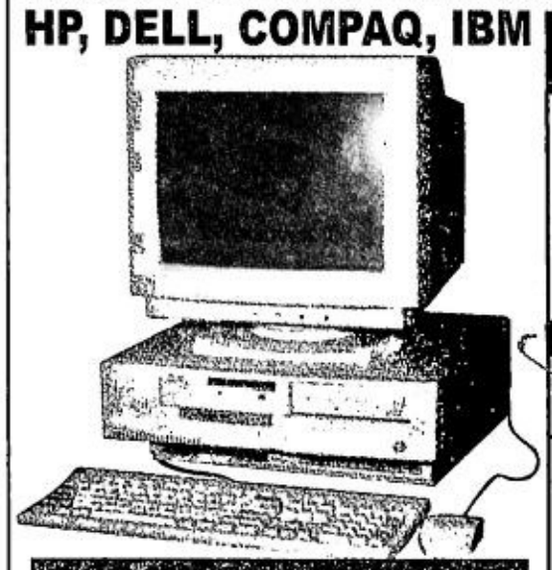

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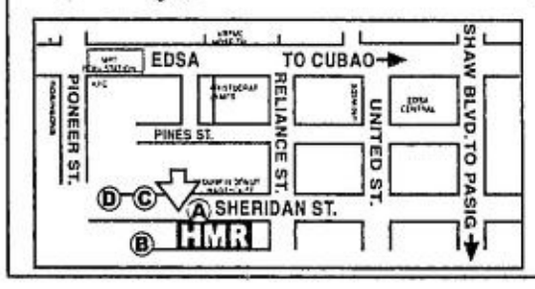

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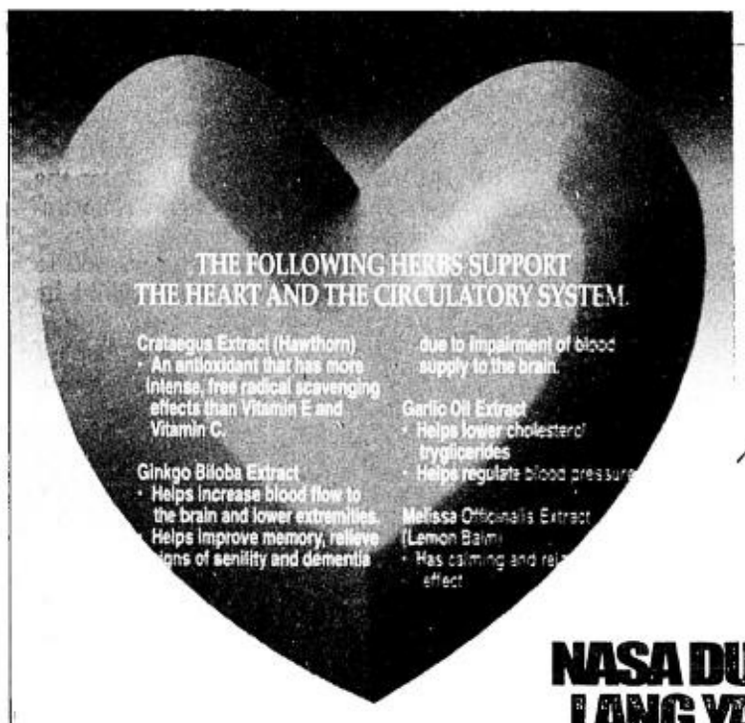

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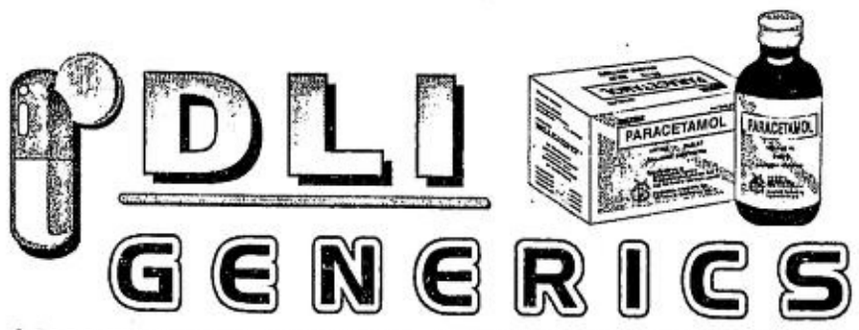

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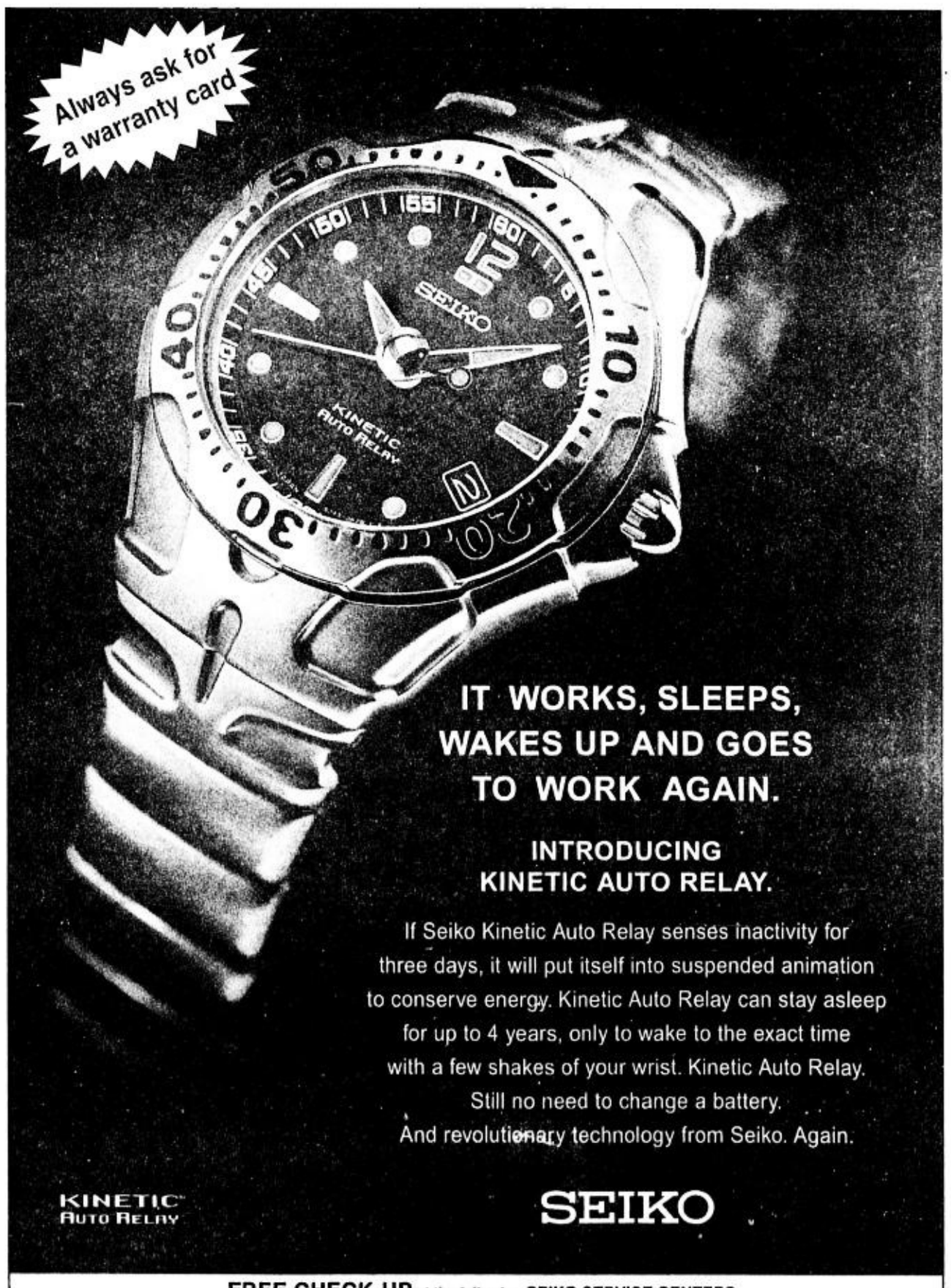

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25,000 cops face chopping block

SOME 25,000 uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police could lose their jobs next January for failing to meet the service's minimum educational requirements, Senate President Franklin Drilon has warned.

Drilon is pushing for the immediate enactment of Senate Bill 1972 which proposes to extend the period within which policemen must attain the required minimum education requirements.

"A number of our most competent and well-experienced PNP personnel have acquired the skills of the job through long field experience. Displacing them from the PNP ranks due to non-compliance with the minimum education qualification will drastically affect the operational capability of the PNP," he said.

Republic Act 8551 requires a formal bachelor's degree from a recognized institution of learning to qualify for appointment to the PNP.

Those already in the service were given five years, to expire in January 2003, within which to comply with the requirement.

Those who fail to do so will either be separated or retired from the service.

Director General Avelino Razon, the head for human resources and development of the PNP, said the deadline has been extended to 2005.

He also said less than 25,000 of PNP members did not have a bachelor's degree. *Rocky Nazareno*

KMU union to sue Sto. Tomas for graft

By Christine Avendaño

THE UNION of Nestlé Phil. said it would file graft charges next week against Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas for allegedly accepting a bribe from the company during a trip she made for a labor conference in Switzerland last June.

The Nestle-Union Filipro Employees (UFE) was the group that provided Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran with the documents in his privilege speech last Wednesday denouncing Sto. Tomas.

Noel Alemania, the vice president of the UFE-Nestle Cabuyao, Laguna branch, said the union would use the same documents to file the charges against Sto. Tomas for alleged violations of the Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices Act.

In his speech, Beltran said the documents showed that Nestle had allegedly footed the bill for the chauffeur services and the Mercedes-Benz car that Sto. Tomas used for a trip to Geneva and Milan and back, from June 15 to 16 last year.

Beltran suggested the the labor secretary's alleged acceptance of monetary help from Nestle may have prejudiced an ongoing labor dispute between the company and its workers.

Sto. Tomas has denied the accusations, claiming she used an old Philippine Embassy car while she was in Geneva from June 9 to 18.

She threatened to sue Beltran for making the allegations against her.

In a press statement, Nestlé Phil. denied Beltran's allegations against Sto. Tomas, saying they were "unfair to a Cabinet official who is known and respected for her fairness and probity, particularly in dealing with labor disputes."

Rising PPA charges alarm consumers anew

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Christine O. Avendaño

CONSUMER groups yesterday warned that the hated purchased power adjustment charges (PPA) component of electricity bills would again account for half of the monthly electricity bills of consumers, with the latest announcement of a rate hike by the Manila Electric Co.

Legislators have sought a House inquiry into the utility company's move to charge its customers an additional 14 centavos per kilowatt hour starting this month. Meralco explained that it has to pay its suppliers more and that this was in turn caused by the weakness of the peso and high oil import prices.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales both objected to the move and said they would file resolutions asking for a congressional investigation.

Lolita Donato, spokesperson for the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) said the government should intervene before Meralco and the independent power producers "manage to spoil our Christmas by again making the (PPA) half of our bills".

Rosales said Meralco should first explain the extra charges before the Lopez-owned company starts billing its customers.

"People right now are paying through their noses," Rosales said in a phone interview, adding that the Lopez-owned power utility should explain the extra charges.

She said the additional power charges would become even more burdensome to minimum wage earners whose salaries have not been adjusted for more than two years now.

There is a pending bill in the House for a legislated P125 wage hike.

"Meralco is again pulling a fast one on the public," Donato said in a statement. "We are being slowly electrocuted by a rise in the PPA which should be scrapped in the first place."

The high cost of electricity has been a contentious issue since last year when the PPA charges became so high they accounted for about half of consumers' electricity bills. The PPA is a pass-on fee representing the cost of what distributors like Meralco pay its power suppliers like the National Power Corp. and the IPPs.

Bowing to public pressure, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Napocor to reduce the PPA.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said the 14-centavo increase in Meralco rates showed the rate reduction ordered by the President was not enough.

"The latest increase shows why the PPA must be scrapped," Reyes said. He said the PPA assured Meralco of a continued flow of huge profits.

Ivanna dela Peña, the head of Meralco's utility economics unit, explained that the PPA rose and fell depending on the changes in the foreign exchange rate and the cost of imported fuel.

She said the October PPA level of P2.03 per kwh was still P1.27 lower than the April PPA of P3.30 per kwh.

Civil society groups express doubts on Marcelo appointment

By Volt Contreras

DENOUNCING the "indecent haste" with which President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed a new Ombudsman, civil society groups have, this early, expressed doubts about Simeon Marcelo's independence.

Plunderwatch convenor Dr. Carol Araullo yesterday said Malacañang "denied the public the opportunity to raise questions" on the final three nominees submitted on Wednesday by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

The President supposedly had up to 90 days from Aug. 4, when the vacancy occurred, to make a decision. Araullo noted that Ms Macapagal's selection came "less than 24 hours" after receipt of the JBC shortlist.

"We are (also) wondering why key positions in this administration are being handed to (persons from) one law firm," Araullo said in an interview. She was referring to the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz—now Villaraza and Angcangco—law office, a firm with alleged close ties to the First Couple.

In a joint statement, leftist groups Pamalakaya and Kilusang Mayo Uno charged that the selection process had been "rigged and railroaded," again citing apparent partiality Marcelo's former law firm.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta warned that instead of keeping government on its toes, Marcelo—who was lead prosecutor in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada—could become a "friendly Ombudsman" for Ms Macapagal, as well as for the presidential family and political allies.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen agreed that the installation of the new graft-buster seemed to be part of the Macapagal government's determined effort to put Estrada behind bars.

Marcelo was unfazed by all the criticisms, saying they merely kept him "reminded" of his purpose.

Besides, he was not without well-wishers.

A surprise endorsement came from opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who pointed out that the appointment was Ms Macapagal's call. He then added, "Mr. Marcelo is fully qualified to handle the job."

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said he was sure Estrada's supporters would raise a howl of protest, for three "simple" reasons: Marcelo "cannot be bought," has "pure and patriotic intentions," and "is absolutely committed" to prosecute the Estrada cases "with utmost vigor and intensity."

Moreno earlier called on the immediate resignation of acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines national president Teofilo Pilando Jr. said the lawyers' group was "confident" Marcelo could "strengthen good governance" and initiate reforms in the public sector.'

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, which has been complaining of government inattention to the Marcos cases, saw hope in the former Solicitor General.

PCGG Commissioner Victoria Avena said Marcelo, "an excellent lawyer and principled man," would boost the government's chances of victory against the Marcoses, especially with his "personal knowledge of the records and evidence."

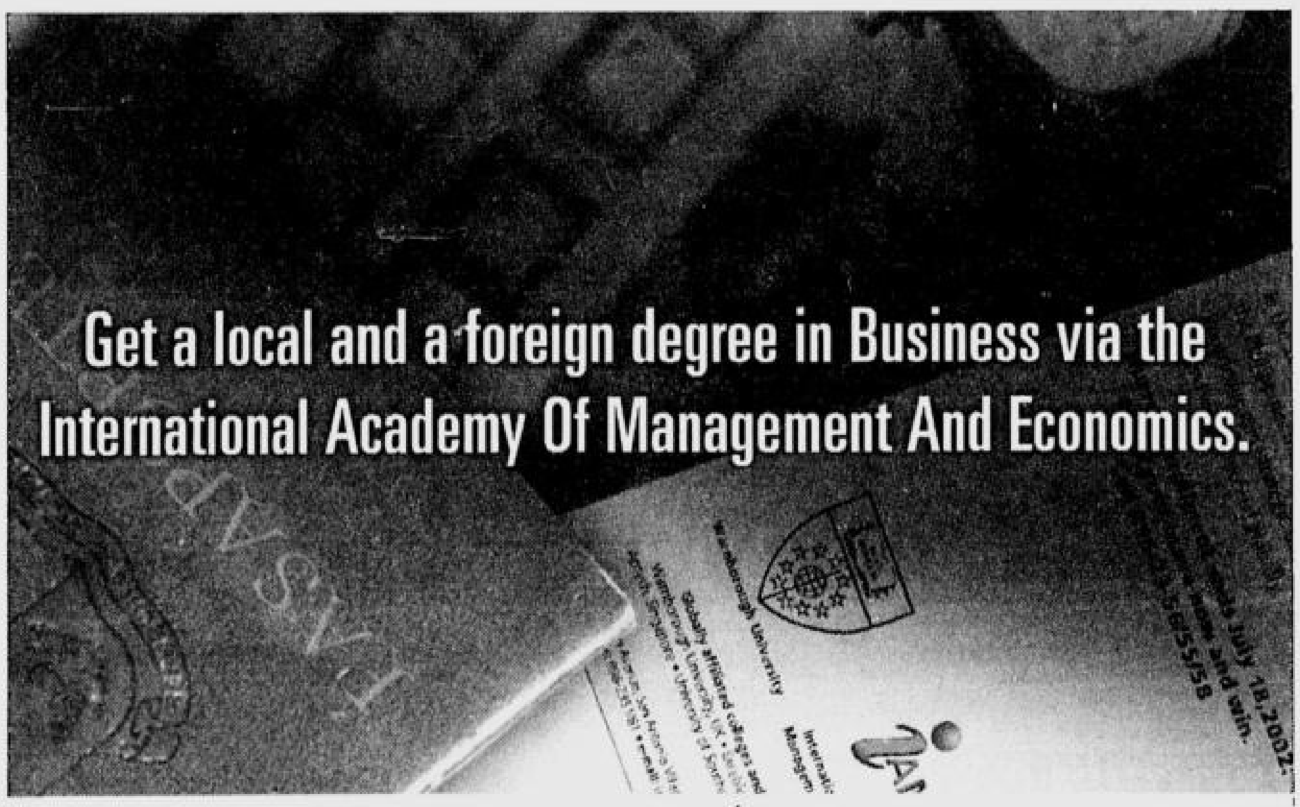
In Vigan, Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina likewise said Marcelo was the best man to fill the Ombudsman's shoes "because he is fearless."

Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson lauded Marcelo as "well-qualified," and the appointment as "well-deserved."

It was Marcelo who presented Singson to the impeachment trial, and the ongoing plunder case trial, against Estrada.

But the new Ombudsman has five cases against Singson pending in his office, four of them previously dismissed and now covered by a motion for reconsideration filed by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa). Singson said he was optimistic that the motion would be junked.

Sisa expressed concerns that Marcelo would be biased in favor of the administration. However, Sisa chair and legal counsel Estelita Cordero said, "We have no choice but to trust him." *With Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet L. Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera, and Leoncio Balbin Jr. of PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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SUMMIT

GMA vows to keep transport fares down

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to keep transport fares down despite rising fuel prices.

She gave the promise even as she admitted that oil prices are expected to go up again due to the possibility of a US-Iraq war.

"The social impact of transport costs can not be overstated. I am determined to undertake all reasonable means to keep transport costs down," she told the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) yesterday.

She said she has ordered Finance Secretary Lito Camacho and Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza to find ways and means to prevent a fare increase.

She said Mendoza would discuss with transport groups "other forms of reasonable relief" from rising fuel costs other than raising fares.

"The good news is that MRT-3, LRT-1 and PNR (Philippine National Railways) are not going to hike their ticket charges," Ms Macapagal said.

Jeepney groups reportedly plan to renew their demand for a P1 increase after gas and diesel prices went up last week.

Malacañang earlier said it foresees only a "minimum adjustment" in fares in case war disrupts the country's oil supply from the Middle East.

Ms Macapagal said ensuring the country's sufficient oil supply is part of her 8-point focus in the next six months.

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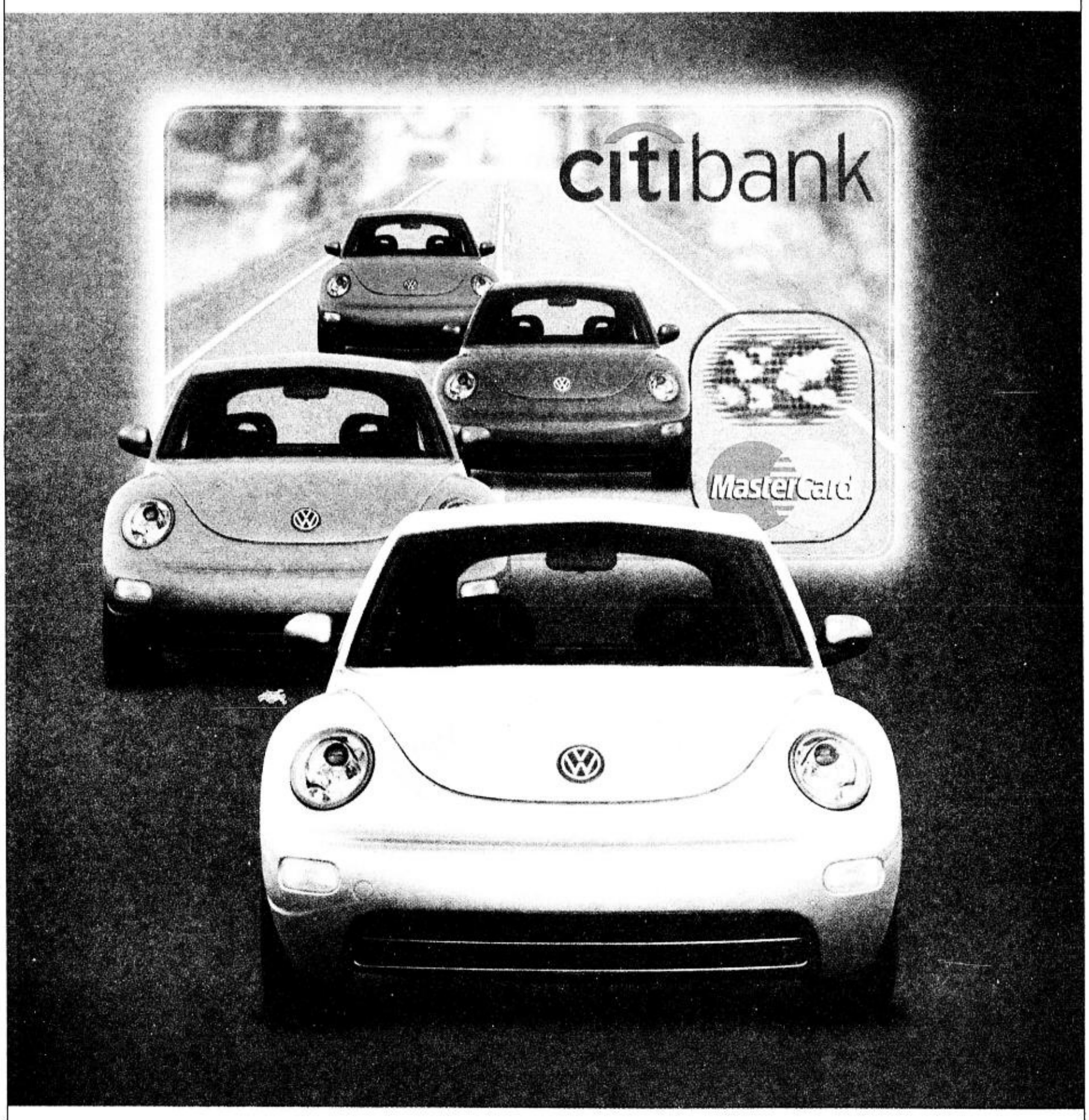

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US-led military gov't to be formed in Iraq

NEW YORK—The White House is developing a plan to install an American-led military government in Iraq if the United States topples Saddam Hussein, The New York Times reported Friday, quoting senior administration officials.

It said the plan also called for war-crime trials of Iraqi leaders and a transition to an elected civilian government that could take months or years.

In the initial phase, the paper reported, Iraq would be governed by an American military commander, perhaps Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of US Persian Gulf forces, or one of his subordinates.

The concept emerged after talks over options with President George W. Bush and his top aides, The Times reported. But there has not been formal approval of the plan and it is not clear whether allies have been consulted on it, the paper said.

In contemplating an occupation, the Bush administration is scaling back the initial role for Iraqi opposition forces in a post-Hussein government, The Times reported. Until now it had been assumed that Iraqi dissidents both inside and outside the country would form a government, but it was never clear when they would take full control, according to The Times.

Officials say they want to avoid the chaos and in-fighting that have plagued Afghanistan since the defeat of the Taliban, the paper reported.

It quoted Bush's aides as saying they also wanted full control over Iraq while US-led forces carries out their principal mission: finding and destroying weapons of mass destruction. *Reuters*

WAR exercises go in high gear as US troops disembark on Thursday from the USS Denver after an amphibious exercise in the gulf off the coast of Kuwait. AFP

Jimmy Carter wins Nobel Peace Prize

From page A1

its citation.

In an interview with CNN, Carter said he was "grateful and honored" by the award.

He said he would continue to speak about "peace and human rights and the elimination of suffering."

Visited RP twice

Carter twice visited the Philippines—in 1995 when he attended a conference on peace and in 1999 to build homes for the poor under the Habitat for Humanity project.

Known for his broad, toothy grin, the low-key statesman who just celebrated his birthday on Oct. 1 started out as a peanut farmer in Georgia.

He arrived at the White House in 1977, but his administration hit numerous snags, including the Iran hostage crisis.

His endorsement of solar energy and reversal of US government tolerance for right-wing dictatorships by embarking on a worldwide human rights crusade failed to boost his popularity at the time.

Carter, who was president from 1977 to 1981, won from a record field of 156 candidates.

He had been repeatedly nominated for the prize and came close to winning it in 1978 when Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat shared the Nobel Peace award for a peace deal he had brokered.

FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER: Long-deserved prize but which comes as a timely rebuke to the Bush campaign to attack Iraq. AFP

The committee that year wanted to give Carter the prize but he had not been formally nominated by the February deadline.

Tireless work for peace

Since he left office, Carter has won praise for his tireless work in trying to bring peace from the Middle East to North Korea.

Last May, he made a historic trip to Cuba, meeting face-to-face with Fidel Castro to prod him on the thorny issue of human rights and push for political opening. But he also urged Washington to reconsider the more than four decades of economic sanctions on Cuba.

"He has shown outstanding commitment to human rights, and has served as an observer at countless elections all over the world," the Nobel committee said.

"He has worked hard on many fronts to fight tropical diseases and to bring about growth and progress in developing countries. Carter has thus been active in several of the problem areas that have figured prominently in the over one hundred years of Peace Prize history."

Carter will receive the award and a prize sum of 10 million kronor ($1.07 million) at a ceremony in Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of the prize's creator, Swedish industrialist and inventor Alfred Nobel. *Reuters, AFP*

US Congress OKs Bush war vs Iraq

From page A1

curity Council," Bush said in a statement issued after the Senate's vote. "Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world, and the United States. Inaction is not an option, disarmament is a must."

In Beirut, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said his country was braced for a possible attack.

"I'm not surprised by this decision," Aziz told reporters after meeting with Lebanese President Emile Lahoud. "We don't decide the timing, but if it takes place in an hour we are ready."

Aziz, visiting Syria and Lebanon to rally Arab support against a possible attack, said Washington's claims that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction were a pretext for a US ambition to dominate the region and a threat to all Arabs.

"Iraq is not a threat to anyone, not neighboring countries, not America," Aziz said. "Bush wants complete hegemony over the region. He wants to control the oil, he wants political and military control."

With the US Congress authorizing US military action against Iraq, the UN Security Council—and especially France and Russia—could now represent the last real obstacle to war.

Russia and France, which have veto power in the 15-nation council, are leading resistance to Washington's demands for a UN resolution that would essentially give Bush the right to declare war without any further UN consultations if he decided that Iraq had violated the terms of the resolution.

This week, Bush laid out terms that many believe Saddam would find extremely difficult to accept, including that Iraq must allow UN inspectors to interview witnesses outside the country and that these witnesses must be free to bring their families with them so they could testify without fear.

In Russia, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Washington's strongest ally on Iraq, was due to meet President Vladimir Putin on Friday for talks in which he was seeking to secure Moscow's backing for a tough stance by the United Nations against Iraq.

In Iraq, US and British warplanes raided an airport on Thursday near the port of Basra. But while American officials said they had attacked air-defense radar, Iraq said they had targeted civilian installations.

Such attacks have increased in recent months as US and British jets police two no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq set up after the 1991 Gulf War when a US-led military alliance forced invading Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

But the former commander of US forces in the Gulf spoke out against attacking Iraq, saying that a policy of containment would work and that Washington had at least five higher priorities in the Middle East.

"I think this wolf (Saddam) can be left for another shot," retired Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni told the annual meeting of the Middle East Institute, a Washington think tank. "...I'm not convinced we need to do this now. I believe he is ... containable at this moment."

Iraq reiterated on Thursday its denial that it was not developing weapons of mass destruction.

"If the Americans commit a new foolish action against Iraq, we will teach them an unforgettable lesson," Abdul Tawab Mullah Hwaish, an Iraqi deputy prime minister, told a news conference in Baghdad.

"The American administration is invited to inspect these sites," he added. "As I am responsible for the Iraqi weapons programs, I confirm here that we have no weapons of mass destruction and we have no intention to produce them." *Reuters, AFP reports*

PDI bags 4 business ...

From page A1

coverage of their beats last year.

Dumlao was named the best among reporters covering the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Ho won for her coverage of the Department of Transportation and Communications and Cabacungan for the Department of Trade and Industry.

Two special reports that appeared in the INQUIRER's Business Section—"SSS, GSIS: Puppet masters" and "The Urban Bank story: Using other people's money"—won over 18 entries in the "best features story" category.

The articles were written by Dumlao and INQUIRER deskperson Raul C. Dancel.

Three other reporters were also recognized for their coverage of the country's business beats.

Dymphna Calica of BusinessWorld won for her coverage of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Department of Finance beat, Donnabelle Gatdula of The Philippine Star for the Department of Energy and Melody M. Aguiba of The Manila Bulletin for the Department of Agriculture.

Among past Ejap awardees still with the INQUIRER are assistant business editor Corrie S. Narisma, deskperson Tina Arceo-Dumlao and senior reporter Clarissa S. Batino.

This year's judges are former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara, former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, former Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro, Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung and Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves.

Ejap was formed in the politically charged environment of 1985—less than a year before a "People Power" revolt overthrew the 20-year dictatorship of the then President Ferdinand Marcos—by a group of journalists that included the INQUIRER's Narisma and business editor Raul O. Marcelo.

In her speech, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin lauded the country's business reporters for exerting extra effort to let the public understand economic news as clearly as possible.

The awards were co-sponsored by Globe Telecoms.

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UM SINCE 1913

19 N. Koreans OK'd to transit through Manila

THE PHILIPPINES has allowed 19 North Korean defectors to transit through on their way to South Korea, documents obtained in Manila said yesterday.

A Department of Foreign Affairs memorandum said the North Koreans would be allowed to transit through for humanitarian consideration and in line with the previous policy for such defectors.

To avoid antagonizing North Korea, the 19 defectors will be classified as being in transit and will not be considered as being granted asylum.

The department issued its memorandum in response to a request from South Korea that embassy officials be given access to the defectors when they arrive and that the safety of the 19 be guaranteed.

The 19, who have taken shelter in the South Korean consulate in Beijing for different amounts of time, were given permission to leave for Seoul through an unnamed third country.

A spokesperson for China Southern Airlines in Beijing said a group of 20 people with mainly Korean-sounding names were booked on a Friday afternoon flight from Beijing to Manila. They were expected to arrive in Manila late last night.

Since 1997, a total 74 North Korean defectors have been allowed to transit through the Philippines on their way to South Korea. *AFP*

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Beginning Oct. 16, our fax numbers at the editorial will be used exclusively by the editorial staff in the field.

Aruta, 59

JOEL V. Aruta, media veteran and university instructor, died yesterday after a lingering illness. He was 59.

Aruta, a philosophy and theology graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, taught philosophy for many years at the University of San Carlos in Cebu.

He worked for the Malacañang Radio/TV office and for the Bureau of Broadcasts of the Department of Public Information and was circulation manager of the defunct "Observer" magazine of the Journal Group.

Aruta was also a member of the staff of the peace panel for Mindanao during the Aquino administration.

A brother of INQUIRER opinion editor Jorge V. Aruta, he was the second eldest son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Jorge Aruta of Barugo, Leyte.

His remains will lie in state at the family residence in Barugo, Leyte. The date of the interment will be announced later.

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Founding Chairman

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Crucial vote

EDITORIAL

THE US Congress overwhelmingly voted yesterday to give President George W. Bush authority to attack Iraq if it does not dismantle its weapons of mass destruction.

The strong vote on a resolution cloaking Bush with broad war powers was expected as well as unprecedented. Congress handed Bush a blank check to declare war even before the United States has been attacked. It overturned the practice in which the US Congress authorized the president to declare war only after it had been attacked, as the United States did against Germany after the invasion of Poland in September 1939, and against Japan after its treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, 1941.

The resolution served two purposes for Bush and the Republican Party. The first is that it is expected to enhance the Republicans' prospects of increasing its majority in the House and regaining control of the Senate in next month's mid-term elections. The vote took advantage of the demonization of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to whip up American patriotic fervor behind Bush's warmongering.

In his Cincinnati speech on Oct. 8, Bush warned that Iraq could attack the United States and its allies "on any given day with chemical or biological weapons" unless a preemptive attack is launched. It is a truism in American politics that American politicians and people tend to close ranks behind the administration in war. Many of those who opposed or were lukewarm to the resolution voted for it, albeit with qualifications, fearing an electoral backlash from the "patriotism" factor.

The second purpose is that the resolution has given the Bush administration a weapon to reinforce its demand to the United Nations Security Council to pass a tough resolution requiring Saddam to disarm within a deadline, otherwise the United States would attack with or without military support of other countries.

The use of the congressional resolution to step up pressure on the Security Council was underlined by Bush's statement which said that "The US Congress has spoken clearly to the international community and the United Nations Security Council...Saddam Hussein and his outlaw regime pose a grave threat to the region, the world and the United States. Inaction is not an option, disarmament is a must."

In the administration's lobbying for congressional support prior to the vote, Secretary of State Colin Powell told a Republican caucus that congressional unity would help the United States press its case at the UN for a tough new resolution demanding immediate dismantling by Iraq of its facilities to produce biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. "What I'm interested in seeing is solid, overwhelming support as a signal of American determination."

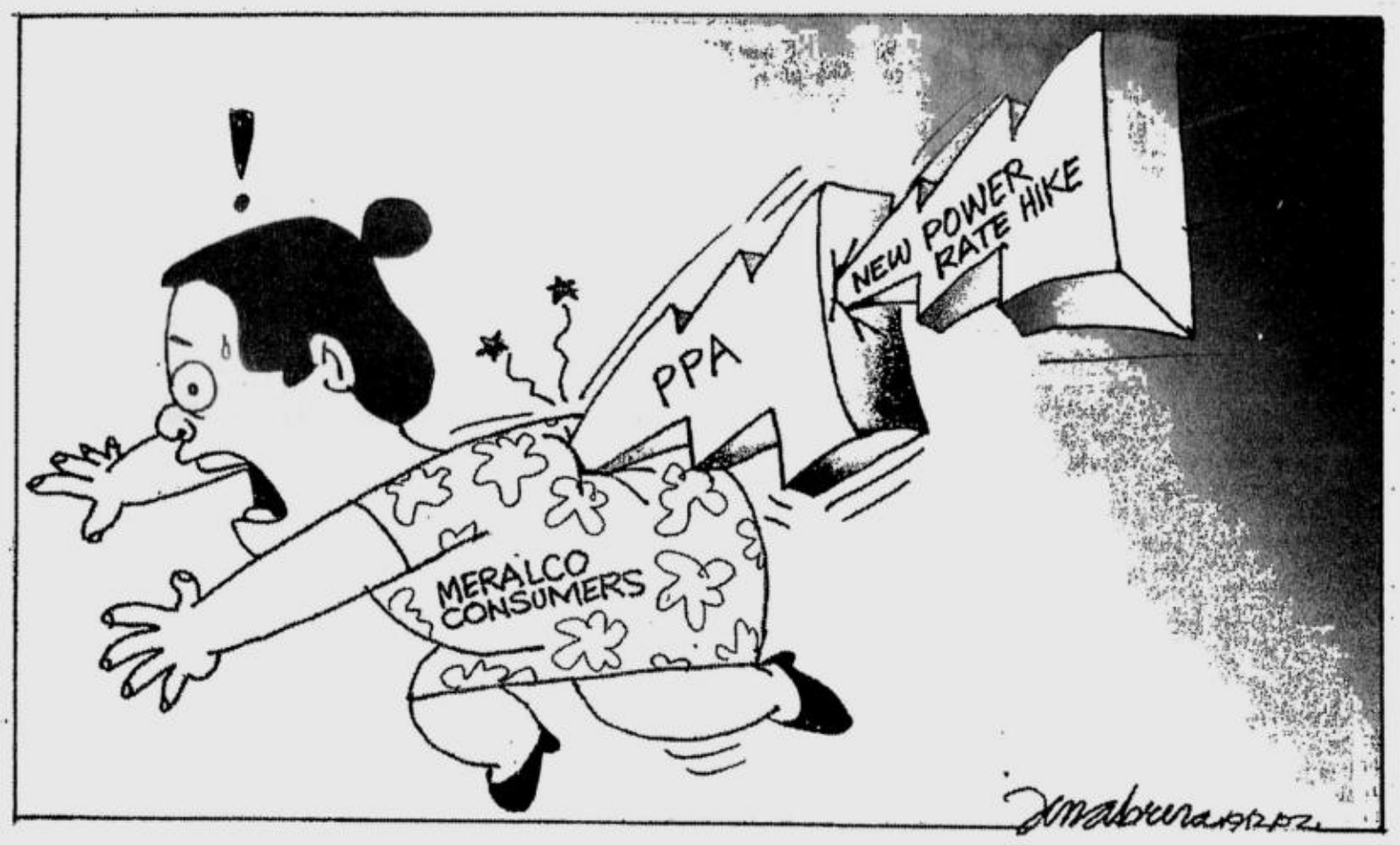
Bush received the expression of support he wanted, but it is problematic whether this show of American solidarity would break down the resistance put up by France, Russia and China—three of the five permanent members of the council with veto power—to the resolution demanded by Bush. Basically, the three states seek to allow the UN arms inspectors to return to Iraq to closely examine suspected weapons facilities of Iraq before the Security Council would authorize an attack on Iraq.

The US resolution could alternatively be regarded by other members of the council as a raw exercise by the United States to exert pressure on them to adopt its tough requirements and an advance declaration of war on Iraq. This could only stiffen resistance to the US draft resolution, backed by Britain, as it could be viewed as a new evidence of US "unilateralism" in foreign policy.

The congressional vote's timing was not accidental. It took place not only on the eve of the US mid-term elections, but, more importantly, also on the eve of the Security Council debate next week. The council is reworking the US draft to deprive the United States of an excuse to launch a unilateral attack under cover of a Security Council mandate. The US demand was framed in such a way that it amounted to unconditional surrender of Iraq, thereby ensuring its rejection by Saddam.

Bush has insisted that Saddam's agreement on unrestricted inspection of his facilities is not sufficient. He added on conditions peripheral to disarmament such as the end of persecution of Iraq's civilians, stoppage of "illicit trade," and allow witnesses to illegal activities in Iraq to be interviewed outside the country. All this shows that Bush is not at all interested in inspection, and, indeed would like that option to fail.

The congressional resolution should therefore be seen as paving the road to war.



Is the Lacson case dead?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SEN. Panfilo Lacson complained last week about the alleged doctoring of the transcript of the hearing on the assignment of Col. Victor Corpus to investigate the senator's dollar accounts in the United States. He says the transcript has been sanitized and demands its correction.

As well he should if there was indeed a deletion of certain portions of the transcript inimical to his adversary. This charge can be easily verified by referring to the tape of the proceedings unless it too has also been edited to protect Corpus.

Falsification of the transcript of stenographic notes is a common problem in judicial administrative proceedings. Fortunately, it has been minimized by modern technological devices that unless also tampered with, can preserve the truth on tape and film.

As long as we're talking about the truth, perhaps we can also ask what has happened to the charges against Senator Lacson himself. There may also be a suppression of the truth in this case, not by alteration of the records but by it's non-decision.

Last year, Corpus accused Lacson of drug trafficking and money laundering, and the Senate decided to investigate. The task was assigned to the blue ribbon committee headed by Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, the committee on local governments under Sen. Robert Barbers, and the committee on national defense and security chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

The three committees conducted joint hearings at which several witnesses testified, among them Mary "Rosebud" Ong, Victor Corpus, and for the defense, Reynaldo Acop, who might as well have declared under oath in favor not of Lacson but his accusers. Lacson himself did not take the stand in his defense but confined himself to general denials addressed to the media.

After continuos hearings that riveted the nation's attention, the investigation was abruptly ended with the adjournment of the Senate and the usual junkets of its members. Although Rosebud said she had more revelations to make, and the public waited for the resumption of the probe, the committees declared that it had heard enough to be able to reach their decision.

The last hearing was held on Sept. 5, 2001. On Dec. 15, I wondered in this column what had happened to the Lacson case. Senator Arroyo called me up a week later to say that the committees were now evaluating the evidence with the help of an independent law firm. He said that their report would be ready by mid-January, and I so reported this welcome news in this column on Jan. 5, 2002.

That deadline came and went, but without the awaited report. So I nagged the Senate in three more articles in this column, the first on March 19, the second on April 14 and the third on June 1, 2002. In a few days Senator Arroyo sent me a copy of the final resolution signed by the chairs of the investigating committees on the charges against Senator Lacson.

The report voted to refer to the justice department or the Ombudsman the committee's evidence of the participation of Lacson in drug trafficking activities and the kidnap-for-ransom of five Chinese nationals. It also faulted him for violation of the PNP Code of Professional Conduct, the Code of Conduct of Public Officials, and other laws prohibiting a police officer from investigating a case where he is named as a suspect, and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

According to lead chair Barbers, the report was voted 7-5 in the first committee, 10-10 in the second and 10-9 in the third, and was therefore supported by a majority of the members. It was supposed to be filed on June 6, the date of the adjournment of the Senate. In a pre-emptive move, however, the opposition attempted to reorganize the committees and quash Committee Report No. 68.

Had that move succeeded, the report that took so long to complete, after an equally long investigation that disclosed the activities of the Narcotics Group and the manner it conducted its operations, would have been withheld and concealed from the people. The public would not be able to ascertain if the charges against Lacson had been proved or were merely the concoctions of his enemies.

Now that the impostures of the opposition have been defeated by its abandonment by Sen. Blas F. Ople, there does not seem to be any more obstacle to the report being submitted to and approved by the revitalized majority in the Senate. Lacson will then be subjected to the judgment of his peers and to such administrative or criminal action as the executive may see fit in light of the report.

The Lacson case entailed so much expense of public funds and official time as to simply be finally ignored and quietly swept under the rug. The public has a right to know if the subject of the probe is a virtuous person or a wolf in sheep's clothing, especially now that he is being groomed by his supporters for president of the Philippines in 2004. The people cannot vote wisely if they are denied information on this vital matter that affects their present welfare and the future of their children.

The Tancangco impeachment case

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE FIRST sentence of Section 5 of the Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Proceedings adopted by the House of Representatives last Nov. 28, 2001 (after four months of discussion) is about as straightforward as they come: "A majority vote of all the members of the Committee on Justice shall be required to approve any determination on the sufficiency or insufficiency in substance of a verified complaint and/or resolution."

That should be clear as a bell to anyone following the extensive discussions during the failed Senate coup last June. If we didn't know it before, we know it now: there is a difference between "a majority of members present" or "a majority of members constituting a quorum," and a majority of all the members.

And yet, if the reports are correct, the committee on justice spent the whole of their meeting last Wednesday morning beating that dead horse. Some members were insisting that the vote be taken then and there on whether the impeachment charges against Luz Tancangco were sufficient in substance. They had either not read the first section of Section 5, or were ignoring it totally, or deliberately misconstruing it. No matter which of the above you pick, it does not reflect well on them.

Rationality prevailed, however. So now, the matter will be decided by referendum. It being practically impossible to get all the members of the committee on justice together at one time (presumably because they are also members of other committees which may have conflicting schedules—in which case, it should be asked why such a stringent requirement was imposed), a referendum is the only way that the committee can vote and meet its deadline. The Rules of Procedure (Sec. 6) also require that the committee shall have 20 session days to determine the sufficiency in form and substance of a verified complaint and/or resolution.

The second sentence of Sec. 5 is not so straightforward. (I needed the help of a lawyer to get through one of the phrases which sounded like legalese.) The sentence is important because it explains what "sufficiency in substance" of a verified complaint means: "The requirement of sufficiency in substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the Committee, and there is a reasonable ground to believe that the wrongdoing charged has been committed based on the complaint and the evidence presented by the complainant."

In other words, there are actually three requirements needed to be met for a complaint to be considered sufficient in substance. The first is that there is a factual description of the offense(s). The second is that the offense(s) must be impeachable (that's what the "determinative of the jurisdiction of the Committee" apparently means). And the third is that, based on the complaint and the evidence presented by the complainant, there is reasonable ground to believe that the offense has indeed been committed.

If the members of the committee on justice were to apply these rules in the case of Tancangco, it should be an open and shut situation. The complaint against Tancangco, prepared by lawyer Jose A. Bernas, is about 80 pages long, with close to 200 pages of annexes. It spells out in great detail the wrongdoings of Tancangco under the headings of graft and corruption (in her case, gross and inexcusable negligence), betrayal of public trust, and culpable violation of the Constitution. The documentation in the annexes—COA findings, transcripts of Comelec meetings, copies of orders—are more than sufficient to fulfill the third requirement that there be reasonable ground to believe that offenses have been committed. The recent Supreme Court decision declaring the VRIS contract with Photokina "inexistent and void ab initio" should dispel any remaining doubts. Together with the COA findings, it establishes that something illegal happened.

True, the Supreme Court does not cite Tancangco by name—the decision states that "this is not the proceeding to determine where the culpability lies." But one can certainly connect the dots: in one part of the decision, it says that the Photokina contract (which Tancangco pushed and then stoutly defended) "is one that can be slain in sight for being patently void and unenforceable"; in another part, it reminds "all public officers that public office is a public trust... (and that) they should be the first judges of the legality, propriety and wisdom of the contract they entered into. They must exercise a high degree of caution so that the government may not be the victim of ill-advised or improvident action."

All of which Tancangco evidently did not do.

Given the above, the committee on justice, according to the House Rules on impeachment, has no choice (discretion): it is mandatory that they find that the charges against Tancangco are sufficient in substance. In which case, they must proceed, within three session days of their finding, to conduct "formal investigation of the charges."

Then, and only then, can they exercise all the discretion they want. Then, and only then, can Tancangco bring forth all her defenses, including the "good faith" that she claims, which by the way implicitly recognizes that offenses were committed.

What are they waiting for? Let the impeachment process proceed.

Italians seek 'right equilibrium' on foreign labor

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROME—Last month tragedy struck in Capo Rossello in southern Sicily, the scenic island at the tip of the Italian peninsula. Some 36 people, part of a group of more than 100 immigrants from Liberia in North Africa, drowned not too far from the coast of Capo Rosello. They had apparently sailed in a rickety wooden boat from Liberia which was later buffeted by big waves during a storm and capsized. Some managed to swim to shore and were helped by rescue officials and Catholic Church workers, but the others were not as lucky. Their dead bodies were plucked from the sea.

* * *

The tragedy seemed to provide an exclamation point to a period of fierce debates that had been going on in government circles for some months, over how to handle immigrants from various parts of the world. Italy has been more vulnerable than other European countries to illegal immigrants because of its long coastline, which is next to impossible to police. Italy's problem is basically much like ours. Our long coastline makes it easy for human, drugs and arms smuggling. The Italian Ministry of the Interior estimates that during the first eight months of this year, more than 16,000 immigrants entered Italy, compared to about 12,000 during the same period last year.

* * *

It has been noted that in recent years more and more foreigners have been entering illegally though Italy's southern part from northern Africa. A generation ago, the immigrants came from countries in Eastern Europe like the former Yugoslavia, Romania and Albania. Other illegals came from Asia, including the Philippines, which has one of the biggest number of workers here. But lately more Africans, especially from Morocco and Tunisia, have been entering through the southern tip of the Italian boot by boat.

To be sure, illegal immigrants have been entering other countries in Europe, but Italy has taken the brunt of the problem because of its long coastline. The African immigrants are conspicuous because of their dark skin. Many of them earn a living by selling cheap items on the sidewalks in various Italian towns and cities.

* * *

The mass drowning at Capo Rossello happened at a time when a lot of talk was going on about the ramifications of a new law passed last July by the Italian Parliament, which sets more stringent conditions for immigrants to be allowed to stay in Italy. Nearly a year and a half ago, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's center-right group won on a platform that included a crackdown on illegal immigration and crime (for many Italians these two issues are related).

The result was a new law passed by Parliament on a 279-203 vote, known as the Bossi-Fini Law, which amended the old operative law on immigrants, the Turco-Napolitano Law, **with tougher provisions. But evidently the authorities here are aware of the need to find the right balance between compassion and imposing order; between the need of the Italian citizens for help in the face of a growing labor shortage and the need of immigration to regulate foreign labor. The dilemma is very evident in the implementation.**

* * *

I got together with my old friend, labor attaché Corazon C. Alfonso, for a briefing on the Bossi-Fini Law as it impacts on the Filipinos in Italy. Alfonso explained that the new law increases patrols of Italy's coastline and requires non-European Union citizens to be fingerprinted in order to remain in Italy. Moreover, residence permits are to be directly linked with work permits, so that non-EU citizens without jobs would have to leave within six months, unlike the old law that allowed a 12-month stay. She explained that Italian employers sponsoring foreign workers have to provide them with housing and post a bond to cover the cost of removing the foreign worker.

* * *

The labor attaché explained that the Bossi-Fini Law significantly increases the power of the Ministry of the Interior, which exercises supervision over the immigration office, and decreases the power of the Ministry of Labor to manage non-EU workers. Meaning, the Italian government means business with the illegal immigrants. In addition, work permits for non-EU workers are to be reduced from four years to two years and requests for renewal must be made 90 days in advance, up from the old 30 days. In order to become a permanent resident, a non-EU worker must live in Italy for six years, so that two visa renewals are now necessary before one can acquire immigrant status. Furthermore, when leaving Italy, non-EU foreigners will no longer be able to claim refunds for the social security taxes they paid to the pension agency, which comprises 25 to 30 percent of gross wages.

* * *

Alfonso also explained that under the new law bars to legal reentry are increased. Unauthorized non-EU foreigners who are caught will now serve prison terms of 6 to 12 months for first-timers, and one to four years for subsequent infractions. Moreover, those who are found to have entered the country illegally will be denied entry for 10 years, an increase from the previous five years and can be detained for 60 days, up from 30 under the old law.

The new law on illegal immigrants may seem quite harsh, but as I stated earlier, it is obvious that the Italian government is struggling to find the "right equilibrium" between its need for additional foreign labor, as demanded by its citizens, especially in the domestic and care-giving fields, where the Pinoys play a big role, and setting its society in order by stemming the tide of immigrants.

(Next: the compassionate aspect)

City life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OH, lighten up! Why can't a healthy woman "of a certain age" admit to having "plenty" of sex without everyone, but especially men, getting all hot and bothered about it?

As a woman creeping up to the dreaded five-oh, I must say that if a woman of 55 can admit in public that she is having sex on a regular basis, then she has my congratulations. Hurray and all that! Mike Arroyo, you're not doing too badly yourself!

While I do believe that the people don't have to be privy to the bedroom antics of their leaders, except where these impinge on policy or (political) performance, how, pray tell, should President GMA have answered the query without courting even more vicious commentary and innuendo?

If she had replied with a curt "No Comment," or told off Raisa Robles that "it's none of your business," don't you think the very same critics of her candidness would have gone on her case and taken her refusal to reply as evidence that she is not having any sex? Would not Fr. Robert Reyes then have said that explains why she's often short-tempered and abrupt? Would not Crispin Beltran have reiterated that he doesn't find her attractive at all, and no wonder Mike Arroyo refuses to approach the marital bed?

I think this nation would have gone about its normal business even if Robles had not poked her nose into GMA's sex life. We really didn't have to know about it. But, knowing that the mother of our country gets to do the nasty, I wish all her critics would just shut up about it. And if asked by INQUIRER reporters what they think about her active sex life, they should just say, "No comment." Some things you just have to take at face value.

* * *

IN 1800, only 2 percent of the world's population lived in cities. By 1950, or 150 years later, only 30 percent of the world population was urban. Fifty years later, by 2000, 47 percent of people in the world lived in cities, and just eight years later, or by 2008, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. By 2030, it is expected that 60 percent of the world population will be living in cities, with almost 180,000 people added to the world urban population each day.

Metro Manila joined the list of the world's "Mega Cities," or urban centers with a population of over 10 million, in 2000, ranking 16th. By 2015 or just 13 years from now, Metro Manila is expected to be home to 14.8 million residents, and will rank 12th among the world's Mega Cities.

As Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Kajumulo "Ana" Tibaijuka, a Tanzanian economist and mother of four, is most concerned with the "quality of life" of urban dwellers, but most especially of poor urban dwellers, most of whom live in what she calls "unplanned settlements." The poor, she says, have the "right to the city," that is, to co-exist peacefully and have equal opportunities for advancement as the wealthier residents. "In Metro Manila, for instance, the urban poor make up 25 percent of all residents. Can you imagine what would happen to the city if you all woke up tomorrow and found that the poor had all been rounded up and trucked to settlements outside the metropolis?"

I tried to imagine waking up to a city without housemaids and laundrywomen, construction workers and vendors, jeepney drivers and bus conductors, newsboys and shoeshine boys, department store clerks, fast food counter people, sex workers, even police, soldiers and public school teachers. The concept boggled the mind.

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TIBAIJUKA was in the country to take part in the culmination of the year-long Campaign on Good Urban Governance, and the launching of the Global Campaign on Secure Land Tenure yesterday at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Locally, the campaigns are spearheaded by the Philippine Urban Forum, a collaborative undertaking of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the UN Center for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), and the United Nations Development Programme.

With the theme "Building Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Urbanization," yesterday's rites sought to emphasize the role that the urban poor themselves, through their own organizations, can play in "local governance and equal access to all the socio-economic privileges and benefits their respective cities have to offer."

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"INEQUALITY is unsustainable," declares Tibaijuka. Poor urban dwellers, she adds, need to be consulted on their wishes and their role in the life of a city if plans to rationalize their settlements are not to turn out, in the end, a waste of public money and a source of social conflict.

Resettling urban poor families in far-flung and isolated areas with no basic services and, worse, no prospects for employment, will only result in the abandonment of these settlements, she pointed out. In many cases, the husband may be forced to return to the city to earn money, leaving wife and children behind in the new settlement. This often results in the breakup of the family, with the husband setting up a new household with a new partner and effectively abandoning his family in the resettlement site.

Much better, Tibaijuka said, to try to retain established communities where they are, upgrade their facilities, provide them basic services like roads, safe water, electricity and schools, and keep the families productive, with little incentive to turn to crime.

With half of the population living in cities, urbanization is the wave of the future in the Philippines. But with rational and compassionate planning, that future need not be as bad as Metro Manila is now.

What PR is all about

COMMENTARY

Charlie A. Agatep

THE INTRIGUING case of Alfonso Liongson who was paid the staggering sum of $2 million to do a questionable public relations job for Piatco has cast a black eye on the PR profession. It has eroded the legitimacy of qualified PR practitioners who have worked hard to attain the high standards of ethics required in the industry.

What Liongson is believed to have done for Piatco was to cover up anomalous transactions and intentions by influencing certain government officials to insert onerous provisions in the DOTC-Piatco Concession Agreement, not only once but four times. That is not public relations. That is economic sabotage.

The late Pete Teodoro of Philprom and Joe Carpio of San Miguel Corp. defined public relations as "doing good and telling the public about it." This fundamental truth about what PR is, and what PR does, has been the basis of legitimate PR practice. PR is making significant contributions to our democratic society by embracing what Thomas Jefferson described as the "engineering of public consent."

Edward L. Bernays, the acknowledged father of public relations, described a PR consultant as a social scientist who advises a client on the attitudes and actions he must take in order to appeal to the public it serves. Bernays suggested that the PR consultant ascertains through research how the client is perceived by the public, then advises what action programs the client must undertake to earn public acceptance.

In my many years in the PR profession, my guiding principle has been to help individuals and organizations tell their stories well. Stories about their social responsibility projects that improve the quality of life. Stories concerning their contributions to make this world a better place to live in. Stories about their company policies and procedures or about their products and services.

For example, the Malampaya project does not only provide a cleaner source of energy, it also paves the way for sustainable social development programs to help underprivileged Filipinos, especially those living in Palawan, Mindoro, Batangas and Subic. On the other hand, Intel's Science and Education Fair has produced Filipino high school students who submitted original research studies and who won against the world's best in a competition in the United States.

In health care, GlaxoSmithKline was the first private company to tie up with the Philippine Health Insurance to provide more than 20,000 health insurance policies for the urban poor, assuring [illegible] access to medi[illegible], hospitals and medical services.

WG&A Superferry's "Give a Can, Give Hope" converts empty aluminum cans into wheelchairs, keeping our ocean waterways free of floating waste while helping the handicapped at the same time.

These are shining examples of good deeds well told. Telling these stories well is what legitimate PR professionals do for the most part of their PR practice.

Unfortunately, a PR consultant does not enjoy the same respectability accorded to a lawyer, a medical doctor, an engineer or an architect because there are no licensing boards to regulate PR practice. Therefore, any Alfonso, Ricardo or Juan can hang up a shingle declaring himself as a PR practitioner. Companies which wish to employ a PR consultant have difficulty in selecting the right person because there are no established yardsticks to measure qualifications.

Qualified PR practitioners are, on the other hand, demeaned by PR pretenders who do not have the experience, education and skills that true PR practitioners have labored hard to acquire.

Communications is the tool of the public relations consultant. And it is through communications that we, PR practitioners, must try and protect our honorable profession from being stripped of its legitimacy by unemployed businessmen and other incompetents who masquerade as PR consultants.

Public relations is a profession of great social impact. PR practitioners heavily influence the channels of communication and should therefore be held responsible for the attitudes and behavior of the publics they are constantly trying to reach.

It is the consensus in the PR industry that Piatco is merely using Liongson's name as a convenient justification for a hidden expense. Liongson is not a true PR consultant. He is not a member of the dominant Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) or of any minor PR organization. He must be a fall guy for get-rich-quick individuals with incredible access to high places of the government.

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Coffee sessions

YOUNG BLOOD

Consuelo Gundayao

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I DO not usually drink coffee. In fact, I am amazed at people who cannot go through the day without having a cup or two. If I were not aware of the physiologic effects of caffeine in the body, I would have thought that coffee had some mysterious qualities. Just imagine how being deprived of coffee affects some people. They suffer headaches and develop an incapacity to think, write, meet or concentrate, among other problems.

I do not usually drink coffee. But I have to drink it when I am in some remote communities.

Curiously not all the coffee served in barrios is brewed. During my last stint in Batangas, home of brewed coffee, I was served instant coffee. And believe me, instant coffee is not only served regularly in Batangas but even in communities located in the remotest mountains and islands of the Visayas and Mindanao. And I mean instant coffee—as in Nescafé, Great Taste, etc. Sometimes I cannot help but recoil at the irony of finding instant coffee in a remote barrio where medicines and medical services are scarce, if they are available at all.

For me, coffee served in the communities is the best. I cannot refuse to drink coffee when I am in the barrios. One time in Cavite, the members of our medical team began to worry that our bodies might start quivering from the endless cups of coffee served to us. It did not happen. We even gained weight, but of course it was not because of all the coffee we drank.

When you are in the barrio, you will always be offered coffee. Rain or shine, in warm or cold weather, smiling barrio folks will welcome you with a hot cup of coffee.

And you can never say no. Even before you can decline, a cup of hot coffee will be set right in front of you and the expectant smiling faces of the barrio folks will be focused on you.

Sometimes the coffee is served with cookies or bread one can find only in that particular barrio. Other times coffee is served with *kamote, kamoteng kahoy*, or some other root crop. I like it best when coffee is served with native delicacies such as *biko, suman, puto* or *bibingka*, but such a treat is rare. More often than not, I am offered only coffee, and that's all I get for breakfast.

The most memorable coffee sessions for me, however, is when coffee comes with some lively discussions and sharing of ideas with the people in the barrio. In so many *kapihan* in the barrios, I listened to different stories about life. It was in such *kapihan* that I learned about the life-and-death struggle of farmers to keep their land. During many *kapihan* in the Visayas, I came to understand the meaning of militarization and faced the realities of harassment and human rights violations that are not reported in the media and are kept away from the public eye. In some *kapihan* on Panay Island, I listened to the "sonata" of the Tumandok (native folk), stories narrated through songs, which are their rich cultural legacy. In countless *kapihan*, I witnessed the courage and heroism of barrio folks who never wavered in the face of oppression and fought valiantly for their rights as a people.

"Coffee should be drank while hot," many would say. Why? Maybe because cold coffee has a way of accentuating the absence of milk and sugar, which is usually the case in many homes.

But I hardly notice if the coffee served to me has sugar or milk in it. Neither do my companions. I wouldn't mind if the coffee is bland or bitter, since I won't be able to tell the difference anyway. Perhaps because the coffee is served very hot, or because my taste buds have become insensitive after drinking so much coffee, or maybe simply because my senses are filled with the colorful, sometimes dramatic, true-to-life stories and experiences shared by the people.

Coffee in the barrio can be compared with the barrio folks themselves. Coffee without milk and sugar is like the poor people—deprived of flavor, deprived of luxuries, even of basic necessities of life. Coffee sessions in the barrio, like the barrio folks, in their own pure, natural form, are a picture of poverty and hardships. Coffee is like people in the barrio who wear no masks and don't put up façades—voiceless and unnoticed.

Coffee served in the barrio is very much different from the coffee served in the cities. In the big coffee shops, coffee comes in different flavors—cappuccino, mocha, name it, they have it. In the big city coffee is even served with ice, with froth and bubbles, with cream, with ice cream. But coffee like this, with so many things added, is of course expensive, affordable only to those with money.

Still I love coffee in the communities. Call me *baduy*, promdi or barriotic, I will always go for coffee served in the barrio, be it instant or brewed. Nothing can ever compare to a hot cup of coffee offered wholeheartedly and served with the warmth and sincerity by simple folks.

I usually do not drink coffee. But I can drink gallons of it in the barrio. And for a community nurse like me who has made the barrio my second home, this is no mystery.

Consuelo Gundayao, 29, worked as a community nurse in the Visayas and Mindanao.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Federico rape-slay case

ALMOST nine years after Rosielyn Federico was raped and brutally murdered in Marikina, a Pasig City court convicted five of the seven suspects originally charged.

In a 25-page decision last March 13, Judge Leili Acebo sentenced Ramon, Adorable and Zaldy dela Paz, Joel Borlon and Allan Florentino to reclusion perpetua. They were also ordered to pay the Federico family P1.186 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages as well as for loss of earning capacity and indemnity.

Federico's lifeless body was found on July 7, 1993 in a grassy vacant lot in Marikina, two days after she was abducted by a group of men. Her body bore signs of sexual and physical abuse.

Charges of multiple rape with homicide were filed after a month. Also charged, aside from the five suspects, were Edwin Habla and Melvin Magbanua. Habla was later dropped from the case when he turned state witness. Magbanua is still at large.

The cases were assigned to Judge Eugenio Labitoria but he was promoted to the Court of Appeals before he could decided on the cases.

Judge Santiago Ranada took over the trial. On July 25, 1996, he acquitted the five accused, without giving consideration to the extrajudicial confessions of Ramon and Adorable dela Paz and Joel Borlon. Some of the accused had also admitted their involvement in an interview shown on national television. The confessions and the interview were done during the preliminary investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation. The suspects, however, argued that they were tortured into making their confession.

The Court of Appeals reversed Ranada's decision on May 4, 1998 and ordered the reopening of the cases. The Supreme Court upheld the appellate court's ruling.

In her decision, Acebo considered the extrajudicial confessions as well as the television interviews. She also cited prosecution witnesses' statements and positive identification.

Case status: The defense elevated the trial court's decision to the Court of Appeals.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

Italians seek 'right equilibrium' on foreign labor

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROME—Last month tragedy struck in Capo Rossello in southern Sicily, the scenic island at the tip of the Italian peninsula. Some 36 people, part of a group of more than 100 immigrants from Liberia in North Africa, drowned not too far from the coast of Capo Rosello. They had apparently sailed in a rickety wooden boat from Liberia which was later buffeted by big waves during a storm and capsized. Some managed to swim to shore and were helped by rescue officials and Catholic Church workers, but the others were not as lucky. Their dead bodies were plucked from the sea.

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The tragedy seemed to provide an exclamation point to a period of fierce debates that had been going on in government circles for some months, over how to handle immigrants from various parts of the world. Italy has been more vulnerable than other European countries to illegal immigrants because of its long coastline, which is next to impossible to police. Italy's problem is basically much like ours. Our long coastline makes it easy for human, drugs and arms smuggling. The Italian Ministry of the Interior estimates that during the first eight months of this year, more than 16,000 immigrants entered Italy, compared to about 12,000 during the same period last year.

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It has been noted that in recent years more and more foreigners have been entering illegally though Italy's southern part from northern Africa. A generation ago, the immigrants came from countries in Eastern Europe like the former Yugoslavia, Romania and Albania. Other illegals came from Asia, including the Philippines, which has one of the biggest number of workers here. But lately more Africans, especially from Morocco and Tunisia, have been entering through the southern tip of the Italian boot by boat.

To be sure, illegal immigrants have been entering other countries in Europe, but Italy has taken the brunt of the problem because of its long coastline. The African immigrants are conspicuous because of their dark skin. Many of them earn a living by selling cheap items on the sidewalks in various Italian towns and cities.

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The mass drowning at Capo Rossello happened at a time when a lot of talk was going on about the ramifications of a new law passed last July by the Italian Parliament, which sets more stringent conditions for immigrants to be allowed to stay in Italy. Nearly a year and a half ago, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's center-right group won on a platform that included a crackdown on illegal immigration and crime (for many Italians these two issues are related).

The result was a new law passed by Parliament on a 279-203 vote, known as the Bossi-Fini Law, which amended the old operative law on immigrants, the Turco-Napolitano Law, with tougher provisions. **But evidently the authorities here are aware of the need to find the right balance between compassion and imposing order; between the need of the Italian citizens for help in the face of a growing labor shortage and the need of immigration to regulate foreign labor. The dilemma is very evident in the implementation.**

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I got together with my old friend, labor attaché Corazon C. Alfonso, for a briefing on the Bossi-Fini Law as it impacts on the Filipinos in Italy. Alfonso explained that the new law increases patrols of Italy's coastline and requires non-European Union citizens to be fingerprinted in order to remain in Italy. Moreover, residence permits are to be directly linked with work permits, so that non-EU citizens without jobs would have to leave within six months, unlike the old law that allowed a 12-month stay. She explained that Italian employers sponsoring foreign workers have to provide them with housing and post a bond to cover the cost of removing the foreign worker.

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The labor attaché explained that the Bossi-Fini Law significantly increases the power of the Ministry of the Interior, which exercises supervision over the immigration office, and decreases the power of the Ministry of Labor to manage non-EU workers. Meaning, the Italian government means business with the illegal immigrants. In addition, work permits for non-EU workers are to be reduced from four years to two years and requests for renewal must be made 90 days in advance, up from the old 30 days. In order to become a permanent resident, a non-EU worker must live in Italy for six years, so that two visa renewals are now necessary before one can acquire immigrant status. Furthermore, when leaving Italy, non-EU foreigners will no longer be able to claim refunds for the social security taxes they paid to the pension agency, which comprises 25 to 30 percent of gross wages.

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Alfonso also explained that under the new law bars to legal reentry are increased. Unauthorized non-EU foreigners who are caught will now serve prison terms of 6 to 12 months for first-timers, and one to four years for subsequent infractions. Moreover, those who are found to have entered the country illegally will be denied entry for 10 years, an increase from the previous five years and can be detained for 60 days, up from 30 under the old law.

The new law on illegal immigrants may seem quite harsh, but as I stated earlier, it is obvious that the Italian government is struggling to find the "right equilibrium" between its need for additional foreign labor, as demanded by its citizens, especially in the domestic and care-giving fields, where the Pinoys play a big role, and setting its society in order by stemming the tide of immigrants.

(Next: the compassionate aspect)

City life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OH, lighten up! Why can't a healthy woman "of a certain age" admit to having "plenty" of sex without everyone, but especially men, getting all hot and bothered about it?

As a woman creeping up to the dreaded five-oh, I must say that if a woman of 55 can admit in public that she is having sex on a regular basis, then she has my congratulations. Hurray and all that! Mike Arroyo, you're not doing too badly yourself!

While I do believe that the people don't have to be privy to the bedroom antics of their leaders, except where these impinge on policy or (political) performance, how, pray tell, should President GMA have answered the query without courting even more vicious commentary and innuendo?

If she had replied with a curt "No Comment," or told off Raisa Robles that "it's none of your business," don't you think the very same critics of her candidness would have gone on her case and taken her refusal to reply as evidence that she is not having any sex? Would not Fr. Robert Reyes then have said that explains why she's often short-tempered and abrupt? Would not Crispin Beltran have reiterated that he doesn't find her attractive at all, and no wonder Mike Arroyo refuses to approach the marital bed?

I think this nation would have gone about its normal business even if Robles had not poked her nose into GMA's sex life. We really didn't have to know about it. But, knowing that the mother of our country gets to do the nasty, I wish all her critics would just shut up about it. And if asked by INQUIRER reporters what they think about her active sex life, they should just say, "No comment." Some things you just have to take at face value.

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"Coffee should be drank while hot," many would say. Why? Maybe because cold coffee has a way of accentuating the absence of milk and sugar, which is usually the case in many homes.

But I hardly notice if the coffee served to me has sugar or milk in it. Neither do my companions. I wouldn't mind if the coffee is bland or bitter, since I won't be able to tell the difference anyway. Perhaps because the coffee is served very hot, or because my taste buds have become insensitive after drinking so much coffee, or maybe simply because my senses are filled with the colorful, sometimes dramatic, true-to-life stories and experiences shared by the people.

Coffee in the barrio can be compared with the barrio folks themselves. Coffee without milk and sugar is like the poor people—deprived of flavor, deprived of luxuries, even of basic necessities of life. Coffee sessions in the barrio, like the barrio folks, in their own pure, natural form, are a picture of poverty and hardships. Coffee is like people in the barrio who wear no masks and don't put up façades—voiceless and unnoticed.

Coffee served in the barrio is very much different from the coffee served in the cities. In the big coffee shops, coffee comes in different flavors—cappuccino, mocha, name it, they have it. In the big city coffee is even served with ice, with froth and bubbles, with cream, with ice cream. But coffee like this, with so many things added, is of course expensive, affordable only to those with money.

Still I love coffee in the communities. Call me *baduy*, promdi or barriotic, I will always go for coffee served in the barrio, be it instant or brewed. Nothing can ever compare to a hot cup of coffee offered wholeheartedly and served with the warmth and sincerity by simple folks.

I usually do not drink coffee. But I can drink gallons of it in the barrio. And for a community nurse like me who has made the barrio my second home, this is no mystery.

Consuelo Gundayao, 29, worked as a community nurse in the Visayas and Mindanao.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Federico rape-slay case

ALMOST nine years after Rosielyn Federico was raped and brutally murdered in Marikina, a Pasig City court convicted five of the seven suspects originally charged.

In a 25-page decision last March 13, Judge Leili Acebo sentenced Ramon, Adorable and Zaldy dela Paz, Joel Borlon and Allan Florentino to reclusion perpetua. They were also ordered to pay the Federico family P1.186 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages as well as for loss of earning capacity and indemnity.

Federico's lifeless body was found on July 7, 1993 in a grassy vacant lot in Marikina, two days after she was abducted by a group of men. Her body bore signs of sexual and physical abuse.

Charges of multiple rape with homicide were filed after a month. Also charged, aside from the five suspects, were Edwin Habla and Melvin Magbanua. Habla was later dropped from the case when he turned state witness. Magbanua is still at large.

The cases were assigned to Judge Eugenio Labitoria but he was promoted to the Court of Appeals before he could decided on the cases.

Judge Santiago Ranada took over the trial. On July 25, 1996, he acquitted the five accused, without giving consideration to the extrajudicial confessions of Ramon and Adorable dela Paz and Joel Borlon. Some of the accused had also admitted their involvement in an interview shown on national television. The confessions and the interview were done during the preliminary investigation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation. The suspects, however, argued that they were tortured into making their confession.

The Court of Appeals reversed Ranada's decision on May 4, 1998 and ordered the reopening of the cases. The Supreme Court upheld the appellate court's ruling.

In her decision, Acebo considered the extrajudicial confessions as well as the television interviews. She also cited prosecution witnesses' statements and positive identification.

Case status: The defense elevated the trial court's decision to the Court of Appeals.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

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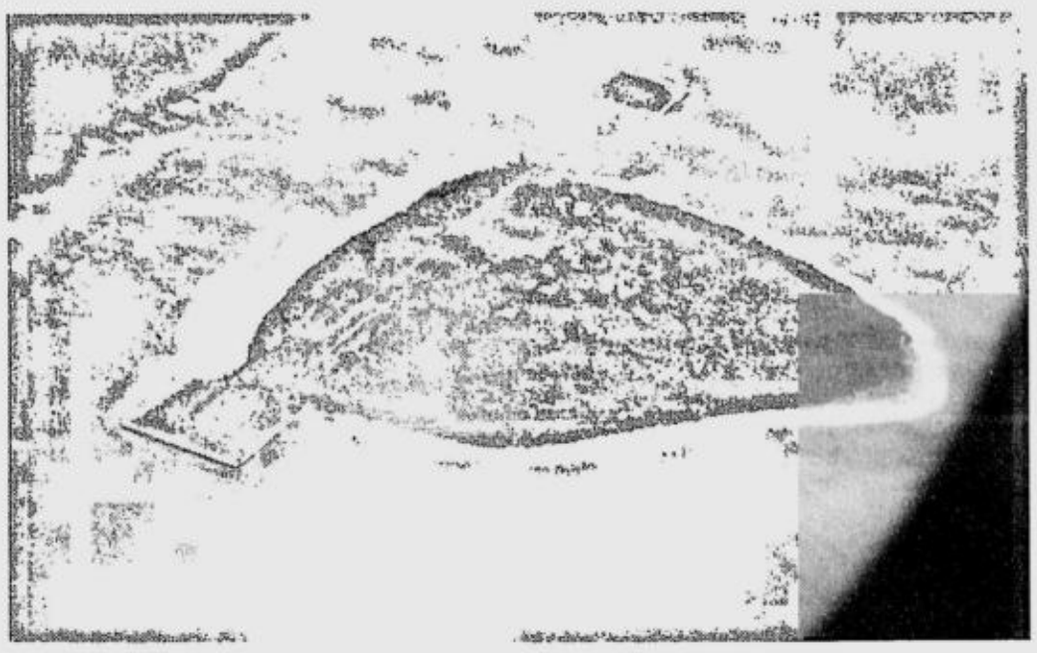

Territorial claims and maritime jurisdiction

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THIS is to clarify some of the issues raised in the article titled, "Behind Chinese Poaching: Spratlys Row" (PDI, 10/3/02) by Dominique Monera-Tabora. I would like to focus solely on the discussions raised with regard to the delineation of the extended continental shelf and the Philippine claim to the Kalayaan Island Group.

Territorial issues should be differentiated from maritime jurisdiction issues. This should have been made clear in the article.

The statement saying, "When the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos) went into force on Nov. 16, 1994, it gave the Philippine government 10 years to establish the geologic basis for its claim to the Kalayaan..." is misleading. The United Nations, through the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, gave coastal states up to 2004 (now extended to 2009) to claim an extended continental shelf under certain conditions. Continental shelf is a maritime area measured from the baselines of a country. While claiming a continental shelf would help a state establish sovereign rights over marine resources found in the area, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea did not say that it would give that country title or sovereignty over any land territory, disputed or not, that may be found within that maritime area. It is clear from Unclos that a claim to an extended continental shelf does not translate into a claim to a territory like the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG). Sovereignty over Kalayaan will not be answered by Unclos.

The concluding statement in that article is also misleading. There is no provision in Unclos which states that the United Nations will oblige the Philippines to relinquish its claim to the Spratlys on the basis of its failure to submit a claim to an extended continental shelf.

—MARY ANN E. PALMA,
468-E Hipodromo St., Sta. Mesa, Manila

China's 'princelings' shun the spotlight

NEWS ANALYSIS

Scott Hillis

BEIJING—Being a princeling in China used to mean something. The pampered children of the political elite were once assured tickets to power and riches until a series of scandals in the 1990s sparked a crackdown on corruption. Now the latest generation of official offspring has learned to lay low, cramming for MBAs in foreign colleges, working for multinationals under assumed names, or running businesses out of the spotlight.

But as a crucial Communist Party congress expected to shake up the ranks of power nears, China watchers will be updating their Who's Who lists, alert for clues about who will have the ears—across the dinner table—of the country's most powerful men.

State-run media rarely report on the children of top officials. Analysts said officials fear too much attention to family business dealings could taint them with the suspicion of corruption.

But many have little to fear, analysts said. "The princelings of today are differentiated from their predecessors by one thing, and that is that their education and skills have set them up to be successful," said Denis Simon, a long-time China consultant who is now dean of the Lally School of Management and Technology in Troy, New York.

Take the children of Vice Premier Wen Jiabao, the man tipped to succeed Zhu Rongji as premier and take charge of economic affairs. His son, Wen Yunsong, attended Northwestern University in Chicago and he now works for an Internet firm in Beijing. His daughter works for the US firm GE Capital.

They highlight how the role of the princelings, known in Chinese as *taizidang*, has shifted over the decades.

Many current leaders came from families with top Communist pedigrees. President Jiang Zemin was the son of an esteemed "revolutionary martyr," while parliament chief Li Peng, an orphan, was raised by Zhou Enlai, Mao Zedong's right-hand man.

Their children, however, came of age amid unprecedented economic reform that saw them put in control of key industries and deep pools of public funds with little oversight. The rampant corruption that ensued aroused public anger and shocked many old-guard leaders, who moved to rein in some of the worst princeling excesses.

In 1997 Zhou Beifang, son of influential party member Zhou Guanwu, was given a suspended death sentence for accepting bribes while head of a major state-run steel firm. Also that year, Chen Xiaotong, son of disgraced Beijing Communist Party chief Chen Xitong, landed a 12-year prison term for graft.

Even the family of the late supreme ruler, Deng Xiaoping, was not entirely safe. China's cabinet shut down a company run by his son, Deng Pufang, in 1988 because of illegal activities.

"Jiang and Zhu, they do not like the *taizidang* very much because they came in on their own, but the *taizidang* have wide connections, a lot of resources and support," said Zheng Yongnian, senior research fellow at the East Asia Institute at the National University of Singapore.

Jiang's son, Jiang Mianheng, has made a name as a high-tech mogul. Dubbed the "Prince of Information Technology," young Jiang has fingers in pies from telecoms to chip foundries.

Zhu Yunlai, son of Zhu Rongji, is a top executive at China International Capital Corp., China's first joint venture investment bank set up with Morgan Stanley. And Li Peng's son, Li Xiaopeng, heads a state power giant while his daughter is an executive at a energy investment firm.

A recent report by the party watchdog Discipline Inspection Commission, the Public Security Ministry and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences detailed the extent of the princeling problem, according to Hong Kong's Trend magazine.

Some 98 percent of the spouses and children of relatively senior officials held key government or business posts, with incomes as high as 120 times the average, the study said. Moreover, they accounted for 78 percent of suspects in fraud cases involving more than five million yuan ($600,000) and were second on a list of public grievances after the police. More than 600 relatives of high-level officials fled abroad after being charged with graft, it said.

The princeling problem also soured party elders on the idea of allowing retiring top officials to designate a child to assume a high-level position.

"Public resistance to, and the institutional restraints on, *taizi, mishu* (personal assistants) and other personal networks has been stronger than ever during the past few years," Cheng Li, an expert on Chinese politics at Hamilton College in New York, wrote in his book "China's Leaders: The New Generation." Sons and daughters of senior officials were once highly sought by multinational firms as "advisers," but their value lay more in their *guanxi*, or connections, than in their advice.

"In the China market, foreign companies are always looking for a competitive advantage," Simon said. "Everyone wants access, that's the key thing. But the question is: are they barking up the wrong tree if they think access comes from the kid of a high official?"

Retiring leaders are also caught between needing to stamp out corruption by official family members and protecting their own relatives from any political campaigns after they retire.

"They want just enough power to obstruct or get in the way of any effort to get at them," Simon said. "Many of these people are victims of their own system. The same system that helped bring them to power could come back and bite them just because the political winds shift."

Reuters

Wrong movie

IN HIS column last Oct. 2, Al S. Mendoza compared the bowling lanes in Busan to the movie he called "The Secret of Santa Quiteria." The correct title should be "The Secret of Santa Vittoria." Mendoza must have confused the name of the Italian village with the one in Caloocan. Also, the movie, which was made in 1969, is not a classic.

I hope Mendoza would stick to sports which is his field of expertise, and leave the movie trivia to Nestor Torre. Those of us who have seen the movie had a good laugh that day.

—JOSEPH QUE ANG,
382 Rizal Ave. Ext.,
Grace Park, Caloocan City

More form, little substance

IMAGE-BUILDING belongs in the realm of show business, and to some extent, in elections, where form rather than substance is what works. However, substance takes precedence over form in governance.

The President does not seem to share this idea. Her concept of addressing the nation's ills is more media exposure. Sadly, instead of being credible, inspiring or comforting, her TV ads are pathetic. They are an insult to the intelligence.

Her photo ops with crime suspects, particularly the ones with the slain kidnappers, are insensitive and gross. They give the impression that small-sized people get manic when it comes to being seen and heard. She was actually smiling, gloating on camera against a backdrop of dead bodies.

Her surfing photos that were splashed on the front pages of newspapers call to mind Nero playing music while Rome burned. And yes, an aging Dyesebel in T-shirt. Of course, she should have her fun, but does she have to go down in history as the surfing President?

If GMA is dead serious about shoring up her sagging poll ratings, she should buckle down to work and leave the acting to FPJ, if only to belie the growing perception that the 2004 election will be a battle between Ang Pandak and Ang Panday. It is ironic and ridiculous that a President, who is an economist, has to force her people to economize for want of a coherent policy and a fumbling Cabinet that shares the same itch for photo ops.

It is ironic and outrageous that, instead of axing the graft-infested pork barrel, this economist President has chosen to cut the local government units' internal revenue allotments by a whopping 20 percent in an effort to tame a rampaging budget deficit.

It is ironic and scandalous that an overpriced road project named after her own father now threatens to become a real shame.

And it is an insult to the Filipino people that all she can do in response to all these, and to the people's problems, is more image-building.

—EDDIE P. DIAZ,
1, E1 98 St., Jaro, Iloilo City

Is Maso blackmailing the President?

THE FULL-PAGE advertisement of the MIA-Naia Association of Service Contractors (Maso), which appeared last Oct. 8 sounded very much like an attempt to blackmail President Macapagal-Arroyo into rescinding the contract awarded to Piatco to construct and manage the Naia Terminal 3.

Maso must really be desperate after it failed to discredit the contract before the House of Representatives, the Ombudsman and the Senate. These institutions have thoroughly investigated the provisions of the contract. The House, the Ombudsman and OGCC recently found the contract legal and aboveboard.

While the appropriate Senate committees have yet to submit their report, it is clear that no evidence has been submitted to destroy the legality and integrity of the contract. Pending review of some of the contract's provisions by a Cabinet committee, the President has already ordered a "soft opening" of the air terminal facility on Dec. 15.

In spite of the tremendous economic benefits that will redound to our country from the early opening of the airport facility, Maso continues to spread disinformation on the project. It is obviously acting on behalf of some selfish business groups which would like to take over the facility for themselves even if their efforts would undermine the national economy and scare away foreign and local investors. We appeal to Maso's sense of patriotism to cooperate instead with the government in making the operations of the Naia 3 successful.

Maso should know that its continuing disinformation and misinformation tend to destabilize the government, especially if it threatens the President with such words as "Before you lose the initiative to vested interests" or "Before other more urgent events hound you."

Maso should respect the presidency, and its importance to our national life. We urge Maso to stop its disinformation campaign.

—SEGISMUNDO DIAZ,
president, Save Naia 3 Coalition

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

TNT traces found on crippled supertanker

WASHINGTON—US investigators who visited a blast-crippled French supertanker off Yemen found fragments of a small boat on deck and residue that tested positive for TNT, a US defense official said Thursday.

Crew members saw a small boat speeding toward the Limburg moments before an explosion rocked the supertanker on Oct. 6, blowing a hole in its hull at the waterline.

US investigators "found pieces and parts of a small marine vessel on deck," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I believe that we had a couple of areas test positive for residue of TNT."

US investigators have joined French and Yemeni experts in investigating the explosion, which was reminiscent of an attack that devastated a US destroyer off the Yemeni port of Aden two years ago.

On Oct. 12, 2000, an explosives laden boat rammed the USS Cole, killing 17 US sailors, as it was refueling in the southern port of Aden.

The French Foreign Ministry said initial results of the investigation into the current incident "appear to lead to the conclusion that the Oct. 6 blast on the French oil tanker 'Limburg' was due to an attack."

Senior State Department officials in Washington also said that investigators now believe that the explosion was an act of terrorism, reversing an initial assessment that it may have been the result of an accident.

"There are now lots of indications that it was caused by some bad people, terrorists," one official said, stressing, however that the probe had not yet been completed.

A second official echoed those comments, saying: "There are signs that it was caused by something other than an internal explosion, but there are no definitive results."

An Islamic Yemeni group claimed responsibility for the blast, which killed one crew member and injured 12 others.

The Aden-Abyan Islamic Army said in a statement received by AFP in the Gulf emirate of Dubai that the target was actually a US Navy frigate, but that the mistake made no difference "because the unbelievers' nation is one."

It said the Limburg was "going to supply the (US) Fifth Fleet for striking the brothers in Iraq."

The attack came amid renewed concerns that the al-Qaida terrorist network is preparing a fresh round of attacks on the United States and its allies.

Al-Qaida's number two, Ayman al-Zawahiri, broke a long silence this week with an audio tape broadcast this week by the Qatar-based, Arabic satellite television channel al-Jazeera that warned of attacks against France and Germany.

US officials say they believe the tape is authentic and that it could have been recorded by Zawahiri anytime after early August.

A week earlier, al-Jazeera broadcast another audio taped warning by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden threatening attacks on vital economic targets. US officials believe that tape is authentic but do not know how old it is.

Both men vanished after US forces toppled the Taliban and there has been little trace of them since December.

"We've seen evidence for months they have an interest in targeting ships," the US defense official said of al-Qaida, citing an al-Qaida plot uncovered in Morocco to attack allied shipping off Gibraltar.

The US Navy last month warned of unconfirmed reports that al-Qaida was preparing attacks on shipping in the Gulf and off the Horn of Africa. *AFP*

US warns its citizens they may be attacked

WASHINGTON—The United States Thursday warned its citizens and diplomatic missions abroad they may face new terrorist attacks from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The State Department issued the warnings a day after the FBI alerted domestic law enforcement agencies of similar threats on US soil following the emergence of two audiotapes from bin Laden and his top aid, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

"The US government continues to receive credible indications that extremist groups and individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against US interests," the department said in a statement.

"Such actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations," it added, noting that citizens should remain vigilant, and that US government facilities worldwide remain "at a heightened state of alert."

Earlier a senior State Department official said all US embassies and consulates abroad had been sent a cable alerting them to the possibility of new attacks.

"There is concern that with the Bin Laden tape and the al-Zawahiri tape . . . that those are indicators that somebody is up to something and we ought to make sure we are at appropriate high levels of security," the official said.

"As we do regularly in these kinds of situations, we've told our posts to make sure they are at high levels of vigilance, that they are taking every level of precaution they need."

At the White House, spokesperson Ari Fleischer said the FBI warning had been issued late Wednesday because the tapes made it important "to make certain that all precautions have been taken."

"The possibility is still unfortunately with us that there are terrorists, al-Qaida terrorists, who, seeking to regroup, still want to bring harm to the United States and to our interests abroad," Fleischer said. *AFP*

UN: Asia's slums problem worsening

MANILA—The United Nations warned Asian governments Friday to swiftly control the growth of urban slums as mega cities continue to mushroom in the region.

"Unless you do something about this situation, it will get worse," said Anna Tibaijuka, the executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

UN-Habitat was elevated into a fully fledged UN program by the world body's general assembly to tackle the explosive problem of urban slums, particularly in developing countries.

Tibaijuka said in an interview with AFP here that slum dwellers make up 30 to 40 percent of Asia's urban population, warning that the problem was getting worse with the growth of mega cities in the region.

Mega cities are those housing more than 10 million people.

"Asia at present has the world largest number of megacities and the trend is, this seems to be on the increase, and when cities have such kinds of (population) numbers, their management becomes more difficult," Tibaijuka explained.

In 2000, 12 of the world's 19 mega cities were in Asia, comprising Tokyo, Bombay, Calcutta, Shanghai, Dhaka, Karachi, Delhi, Jakarta, Osaka, Metro Manila, Beijing and Cairo.

The UN-Habitat projects the region would have 15 of the 23 mega cities in 2015, with the inclusion of Bangkok, Hyderabad and Tianjin. *AFP*

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Imre Kertesz wins Nobel Lit Prize

STOCKHOLM—Hungarian Holocaust survivor and novelist Imre Kertesz, whose writing is dominated by his experiences in Nazi concentration camps as a teenager, won the 2002 Nobel Literature Prize on Thursday.

Little read in the English-speaking world, his work has found the most resonance in Germany, which gave Kertesz a gateway from his native Hungary to a large audience.

KERTESZ AP

"My mother tongue is a little island language but the Nobel Prize is also a distinction for Hungarian literature," he said, after learning of the jury's decision.

Kertesz, at 72 the first Hungarian to win the prize, has centered his work on his experience in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, where he was held in 1944 and 1945. "When I am thinking about a new novel, I always think of Auschwitz," he once said.

Refusing to see concentration camps as an accident in western European history, he instead called them "the ultimate truth about human degradation in modern existence." The Swedish Academy said his work described "the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric arbitrariness of history."

After the war, he worked for a Budapest newspaper, was sacked in 1951 when the Communist party took control, and completed two years of military service before becoming a full time writer, including of musicals and light theater. He also translated authors such as Nietzsche, Hofmannsthal, Schnitzler, Freud, Roth, Wittgenstein and Canetti, who all influenced his own writing.

The Swedish Academy detected parallels between Kertesz' refusal to compromise with dictatorships and his style of prose, which it described as "a thickset hawthorn hedge, dense and thorny for unsuspecting visitors."

Kertesz has been faulted for including humor in his descriptions of concentration camp life—a charge, incidentally, also leveled at Roberto Benigni's 1998 film "Life is Beautiful"—but the Academy said Kertesz' narrative style was actually liberating.

"He relieves his readers of the burden of compulsory emotions and inspires a singular freedom of thought," it said.

Kertesz's first novel, "Fateless," published in 1975, is based on his ordeal in Auschwitz and later Buchenwald, although he denied that it was autobiographical.

The German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung called the novel "one of the most important works of 20th-century European literature."

Also published in English is "Kaddish for a Child not Born," in which the main protagonist refuses to father a child "in a world that permitted the existence of Auschwitz."

On learning of the award, Kertesz said it was "interesting" that he had received the Nobel prize for his writings on the Holocaust and dictatorship. "Perhaps there is something to be learned there for eastern European states in general," he said.

Kertesz was among the writers rumored to be in the running for this year's prize, along with Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa, Cees Nooteboom and Hugo Claus.

However, his Nobel success has clearly wrong-footed book-sellers. Internet bookshop Amazon.co.uk for example does not stock "Kaddish for a Child not Born", and cannot deliver "Fateless" for one or two weeks.

Kertesz will take home the prize sum of 10 million kronor (1.10 million euros/dollars), which in his own words, means he can have "a quieter life, at least financially."

He is currently working on a new novel, "Liquidation," in which he takes a "final look at the Holocaust." He told reporters in Berlin on Thursday that he gave up writing by hand earlier this year, and that he will finish the book on a laptop computer.

Kertesz also said he could imagine "worse things" than putting on a white tie and tails on Dec. 10, when he will receive the award, along with the other Nobel laureates, from the hands of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf. *AFP*

Mahaba-haba-haba-haba-haba-haba-haba-haba-

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Suicide bomber kills Israeli woman, hurt 29

TEL AVIV—A Palestinian suicide bomber killed an Israeli woman and wounded 29 other people Thursday when he blew himself up in suburban Tel Aviv, while Israeli tanks in the Gaza Strip killed two more youths.

The suicide bombing ended a three-week lull in violence inside Israel, although Israeli operations in Gaza have killed more than 20 people this week, despite US-led calls for restraint.

The unidentified woman was fatally injured after the suicide bomber slipped while trying to board a bus and was thrown out by passengers who saw the explosive belt strapped to his body, police said.

They raised the alarm and fled, while the Palestinian ran off to a group of people waiting nearby and blew himself up there, Superintendent Gil Kleiman said.

The blast happened under a bridge by a bus stop used mainly by students of Bar Ilan university, east of Tel Aviv center, the radio said.

It was the first suicide attack in Israel since a Palestinian killed himself and six people and wounded more than 60 in central Tel Aviv on Sept. 19, also in an attack on a bus.

That blast, a day after the death of a policeman in a suicide explosion in northern Israel, prompted Israeli forces to invade Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah and demolish most of the buildings.

They kept Arafat under a tight blockade in his West Bank headquarters for 10 days before the army withdrew under US pressure.

The Islamic radical movement Hamas, which carried out the last suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, had promised more attacks after Israeli forces killed 16 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis on Monday.

Top Arafat aid Nabil Abu Rudeina blamed the suicide bombing, and other violence in the region, on Israel's continued occupation and heavy-handed raids in the territories.

"Israel is responsible for the continuation of violence in the region, for its aggression and its massacres against the Palestinian people," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was discussing the situation with his security cabinet after the bombing, in a pre-scheduled meeting, but Israeli media said it was unlikely there would be a repeat of the Ramallah siege.

In the southern Gaza Strip, Israeli machine-gun fire killed two young Palestinians during a raid into Rafah refugee camp on the Israeli-controlled border with Egypt, Palestinian hospital sources said.

Ehab Mughir was shot in the chest from a tank, they said, while 12-year-old Taher el-Hout was hit in the head. Helicopters also fired rockets into the sector without causing injuries, witnesses said.

Two boys were killed late Wednesday in similar shootings from Israeli tanks engaged in an operation to destroy Palestinian homes in the border sector.

Monday's major tank and helicopter assault aimed at Hamas militants firing mortars at Jewish settlements cost 16 Palestinian lives and earned Israel a sharp rebuke for its frequent and bloody raids into Gaza Strip.

But Sharon shrugged off the criticism, saying the raid was a success and that operations would go on, although Washington wants to see the two-year crisis cool down as it tries to build support for anticipated strikes on Iraq.

In the West Bank, the army arrested 55 Palestinians in a huge dragnet through villages round Ramallah aimed at smashing Hamas, which launches its attacks out of the territory rather than closely guarded and isolated Gaza.

Several units, including tanks and helicopters, took part in the sweep which lasted several hours on Thursday morning, without meeting any resistance, the sources said.

In Hebron, the Israeli army demolished eight Palestinian houses on the grounds that the owners did not have construction permits.

Also in the West Bank, Israeli troops dismantled another two unauthorised Jewish settlement outpost, after Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said he would scrap up to 30 of the mini-settlements. *AFP*

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Airport strike fuels shutdown fears

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Fears of an airport operation shutdown loomed yesterday after employees at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport began a series of protests that threatened to escalate into a work stoppage over unpaid accumulated benefits amounting to P200 million.

The 600-strong Mactan International Airport-Employees Mutual Association (Mema) said they would go on mass leave today should the MCIA Authority (MCIAA) board of directors continue to defy a Cebu Regional Trial Court ruling that ordered the release of their amelioration pay, cost of living allowance, rice subsidy, medical and hazard benefits and childrens' allowance that have remained unpaid since 1990.

A mass leave would totally paralyze the operation of the MCIA, the country's second biggest international airport, according to Mema president Edgar Bongoyan.

MCIA hosts over 30 domestic and international flights a day. International traffic includes direct flights to Hong Kong, Singapore, and Seoul in South Korea; Narita and Hiroshima in Japan; Kuta Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur, both in Malaysia; and Incheon, Kaushiung and Taipei.

Mema members belong to the five vital departments in the airport. These are the emergency and security services department that include fire, medical, identification pass and police personnel; engineering department that include electrical, mechanical, electronics, heavy equipment and civil works employees; operation department that serves as ground control crew for domestic and international flights; finance department that include budget, accounting, cashiering and collection (e.g. terminal fees) personnel; and the corporate management services and business development department.

Tension rose when some 200 off-duty members of Mema blocked at noon yesterday the entrances leading to the MCIAA board room and offices of airport officials, causing anxiety among passengers and airline operators.

The workers came as a show of force since the MCIAA board was holding its regular meeting yesterday. The meeting was presided over by Transportation Undersecretary Carina Varela who came in lieu of Secretary Leandro Mendoza, the MCIAA board chair.

Tension rose higher when the employees were told that the board decided against granting them their demands.

The employees expected to each receive from P100,000 (rank and file) to P400,000 (supervisors) after Cebu RTC Judge ruled in March in favor of releasing the workers' benefits.

Airport management appealed the ruling.

FIRE DANCE
The first batch of Filipino settlers on Pag-asa Island, part of the disputed Spratlys group of islands, celebrate the night with a bonfire.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Army accused of abducting pastor, Bayan Muna coordinator

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—A militant organization accused the military of being behind the abduction of a pastor and a Bayan Muna coordinator separately this week.

Unidentified armed men believed to be soldiers abducted the coordinator Oct. 7 in Ibaan, Batangas.

Mel Abesamis, Bayan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, said in a text message to the INQUIRER that Domingo de las Alas, 48, of Ibaan, Batangas was last seen in a jeepney on his way to Manila.

Bayan said De las Alas' abduction was part of efforts to silence militant groups.

Edwin Alog, also of Bayan, said a team from the group was formed to investigate the disappearance of De las Alas.

Dino Bangkiling, Mangyan leader and pastor of the United Methodist Church, was abducted Oct. 5 in Lantuyan in Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

The human rights group Karapatan said Bangkiling was approached by village councilor Duco Madarayan and was told to see the village captain.

Bangkiling obliged but only to find out that it was a set-up. At least 10 soldiers, led by a certain Major Calagui, was with the village captain to question him over his alleged involvement with the NPA.

Bangkiling was detained in a military camp for more than 24 hours without charges filed against him, said Karapatan.

The pastor said he was repeatedly beaten and subjected to mental torture during detention.

Bangkiling said a Col. Jovito Palparan and a certain Sebana interrogated him.

He said he was forced to accompany soldiers to the mountains and asked to locate mass graves of NPA victims.

He said he was forced to dig up suspected mass graves.

Bangkiling was freed after no mass grave was found, but he claimed that before he was released, he was hit with a rifle butt by one of his abductors.

Colonel Palparan denied the report.

"We know nothing about it. We have no involvement," he said.

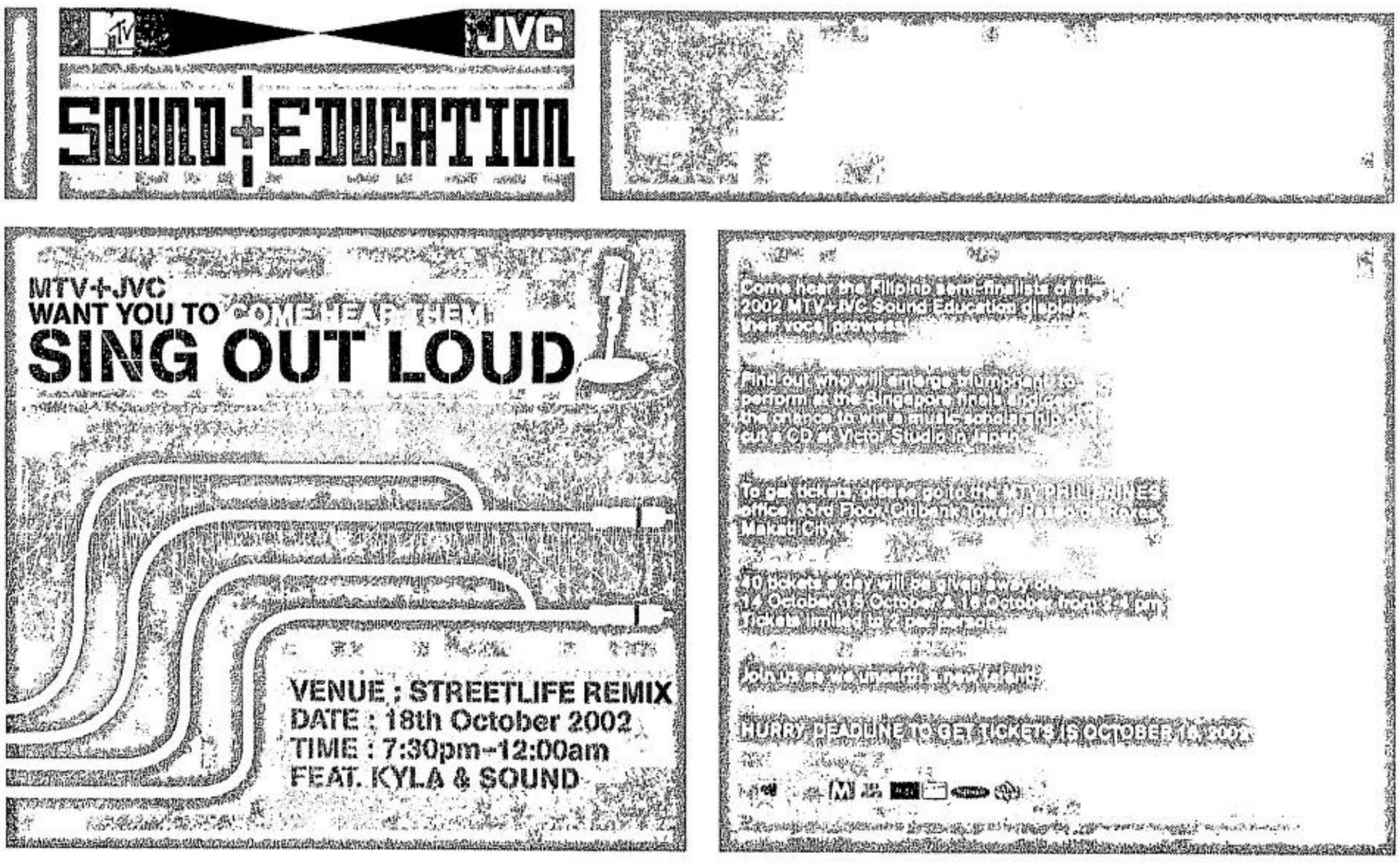
Palparan also denied protecting mining and land-grabbing operations in the area.

"Not one soldier was involved. Now that mining operations have stopped, how can they still be involved?" the colonel asked.

Palparan had been charged with murder for the death of a Bayan Muna member but the case was dismissed Aug. 28.

But Bayan said the abduction of Bangkiling was a result of his strong opposition to the land grabbing activity of landlords and other mining firms operating on the island.

"We know that the objective of . . . the military . . . is only to give assistance to the landlords and the multinational companies," said Abesamis. *Romulo Ponte, Clarice Colting and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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ROUNDUP

Masked men kill 4

BANGUED, Abra—Four people were killed while four others were wounded after bonnet-wearing men opened fire at a wake in Barangay Baug in San Juan town on Friday. Police said Algie Pacursa, village official Eric Pacursa, Johnsen Bersamin and 10-year-old Reggie Monterio died from bullet wounds. Recovered from the scene were spent bullets of Armalite rifles and shotguns. Police are looking into personal grudge and politics as motives for the attack.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Awards for Apayao

BAGUIO CITY—Apayao won three major awards in this year's Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran (formerly the cleanest and greenest awards) in Cordillera. Apayao and its town Pudtol were named the cleanest and the greenest province and town while the Ziwanan River in Calanasan town won in the inland body of water category. It is the second consecutive year that Apayao won because of its Dur-as ti Barangay, a search for the cleanest and greenest barangay program initiated by the provincial government.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Wanted men nabbed

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Police arrested Cordillera's most wanted person on Sunday in Pasil, Kalinga. Larry Gampong, who carried a P100,000-reward on his head, was facing warrants of arrest for allegedly killing five people in Kalinga in 1995. He was also facing homicide charges in 1996. Also presented to the media was Frenzil Tobay, tagged as Public Enemy No. 8 in the region. He was accused of raping and killing a girl in Baguio City in July last year.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Lawmaker's wife robbed

SISON, Pangasinan—The wife of Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco lost her camera, credit cards, driver's license and cash to robbers on Sunday. Supt. Alfredo Bascao, police chief here, said Carmen "Kimi" Cojuangco accompanied her husband during the inauguration of the barangay road in Bolaoen East here when the robbers took the items from her Ford Expedition. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Reporter jailed

GUINOBATAN, Albay—A radio reporter from Sorsogon was detained Sunday for 12 hours at the police station here for not paying his tricycle fare. Police identified the reporter as Elizer Lumatao of radio station dwLH. Tricycle driver Ed Mitra said Lumatao allegedly asked for his change, without having paid yet. When Lumatao noticed that Mitra was mad, he gave the latter a P500-bill. Mitra, however, said he had no change. Lumatao took back his money and jumped out of the tricycle. This caught the attention of a policeman nearby that led to the reporter's arrest.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Officer escapes death

VIRAC, Catanduanes—San Andres municipal officer Rolly Canada survived four bullet wounds when an ex-convict and alleged illegal fisherman Jose Manlangit shot him on Monday. Mayor Joseph Cua said Manlangit fought back when he was being arrested and fired at Canada, who was with the arresting officers. Bicol Medical Center surgeon Dr. Beatrice Abella said all the bullets exited from Canada's body. Canada was airlifted to Manila. San Andres police chief Senior Insp. Arnulfo Duroy said the suspect was still at large.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bicol trade fair

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 73 manufacturers from six Bicol provinces joined the sixth regional trade fair dubbed as "Orgullo Kan Bikol," starting on Oct. 10 at the Megatrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. A fashion show entitled, "Abaca, Pinukpok, Piña, atbp." will also be held. It will highlight indigenous fabrics and materials in contemporary designs and styles.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Shelter for abused

CALAPAN CITY—A center for women, elderly and street children was inaugurated here recently. The center, named Lilia San Agustin Care Center, was named after the late Lilia San Agustin, a devout Catholic. Before she died in February 1997, San Agustin willed that her property be used in helping the poor. The center was constructed beside the city hall under a five-year renewable memorandum of agreement with the city government. It will serve as a transient house for abused women, elderly and street children before they are brought to the office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Manila.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tests show Baguio air pollution worsening

BAGUIO CITY—Air quality index on Session Road showed that last summer was the dirtiest ever for the city. Rains during the third quarter cleared up the air but the impending El Niño might again worsen air pollution in Baguio.

Average total suspended particulate measured by a high-volume air sampler on lower Session Road from May to June was 393.392 microgram per normal cubic meter (μg/Ncm), the highest since measurements were taken daily in 1997.

This is much higher than the standard set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at 230 μg/Ncm. According to the Environmental Management Bureau, standard air quality index from 350 to 599 is regarded as very unhealthy. Pedestrians should avoid heavy traffic areas and those with heart and respiratory disease should stay indoors and rest as much as possible.

At this level, unnecessary trips should be avoided and people should stop using their cars until the air has cleared.

That air pollution would rise to that level during summer is bad news to Baguio City, the country's summer capital.

"From July to September, the average went down to 238.4 μg/Ncm," said Rolando Reyes, an engineer of the EMB-Cordillera.

During the first quarter, the level was 257.467.

Reyes said air pollution shot up last summer because of the huge volume of cars and trucks in the city.

"Baguio has no smokestack industry and the biggest source of air pollution are the cars, jeeps and other vehicles," he said.

But the quarterly average since 1997 showed that January to March is the most polluted with an average of 264.6 μg/Ncm. Second and third quarters are almost constant at 257 μg/Ncm and the air is clearest from October to December at 240.4 μg/Ncm.

Although the measurements were made in the central business district, the EMB said air quality monitoring in urbanized zones in the BLIST (Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba) area yielded approximately the same concentrations.

"This showed that the interchange and diffusion of air pollutants in the atmosphere in these areas come from the same sources," EMB said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NEW WAR GAMES

600 US Marines arriving in Clark

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Some 600 US Marines were expected to arrive yesterday at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here until Sunday for the two-week Talon Vision 2002 joint military exercises with some 400 Filipino soldiers.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the 600th Air Base Wing here, said the exercises will be held from Oct. 14 to 26 at Marine Base Ternate in Cavite; Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija; Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac; and in this former US military base.

Last month, a 15-member US panel led by US Marines Col. Chuck O Neil met with its Filipino counterpart from the Philippine Air Force to finalize the details and security rules of the military exercises.

Talon Vision 2002 will be held more than a week after suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group bombed a karaoke bar in Zamboanga City that resulted in the death of US Sgt. Mark Jackson and two Filipino civilians.

The US Marines are expected to bring CH-53 Super Stallion and Cobra Attack helicopters and FA-18 fighter jets for simulated air combat operations at Crow Valley, a former firing range of US war aircraft until the Americans pulled out from this base in 1991.

Ground combat scenarios will also be held at the Marine Base Ternate and Fort Magsaysay.

The exercises will coincide with the military and police's crackdown on communist rebels in Central and Southern Luzon.

Last Oct. 6, government soldiers and policemen killed five suspected members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, a rival group of the New People's Army, in Mexico town.

As part of its war against global terrorism, the US government has considered the armed communist groups in the country as terrorist organizations.

The arrival of US soldiers in the country has become more frequent following the Sept. 11 attacks by the al-Qaida terrorist network on US targets.

The US troops had gone to Basilan to help train Filipino soldiers on anti-terrorism tactics. The training was aimed at helping the Philippine Army fight the Abu Sayyaf.

Militant groups had protested what they said was an affront on Philippine sovereignty. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Soldiers unearth 2 kg of explosives in Negros town

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Soldiers seized on Wednesday two kilograms of explosives believed to be owned by the New People's Army (NPA) in Barangay Lag-it, Tayasan town, Negros Oriental.

Brig. Gen. Alphonsus Crucero, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said the explosives, also known as water gel, were powerful enough to blow up a building or knock down a power transmission line.

Intended

He said he believed that the NPA rebels might have intended to use the British-made explosives to bomb transmission lines of the National Power Corp. and vital communications facilities on Negros Island.

Soldiers belonging to the 66th Infantry Battalion based in Guihulngan town, Negros Oriental found six packs of explosives with 37 blasting caps and a 14-meter detonating cord, which were buried near a house in Sitio Mabigo, Barangay Lag-it.

Tipped

Lt. Col. Rolando Picar, 66th IB commanding officer, said an "asset" tipped soldiers that at least four kilograms of explosives were buried in the area but soldiers found only 2 kg.

Senior Supt. Geary Barias, chief of the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Office, said power gel explosives are not sold commercially and are for the exclusive use of the military.

He said these explosives might have been seized by rebels during raids on military or police detachments.

Delay in Puerto port expansion hit

LOCAL leaders in Puerto Princesa City are questioning the decision of the Philippine Ports Authority to delay the implementation of the proposed extension of the city wharf.

The delay, officials said, was due to the failure of the PPA to award the project to the lowest bidder and the subsequent decision of the port agency to reduce the scope of work of the project following a second bidding.

The local officials are demanding the investigation of PPA general manager Al Cusi for delaying the expansion project to the disadvantage of Palawan residents.

The wharf is the only commercial port that services the city and central Palawan.

The port expansion project was first bidded out in November 2001 at an estimated cost of P85 million. The government would have saved some P17 million with the submission of a P68-million bid price by the lowest bidder, Sargasso Construction & Development Corp.

But despite the completion of the bidding process, no award on the project was made.

The expansion project was bid out again in July for P66 million, but with a reduced scope of work. Dredging work for the entire project, a big component of the project, was excluded in the second bidding.

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photos courtesy of Jake Verzosa and Cocoy Sarmenta

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

'Kapis' makes comeback in Iloilo waters

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

FIRST, the good news: two valuable mollusks, the "*kapis*" (*Placuna placenta*) or windowpane oysters and "*bay-ad*" (*Placuna sp.*) have made a comeback near the shores of Iloilo province.

And now the bad news: they may soon disappear like they did in the early 1990s because it is hard to keep at bay the harvesters who indiscriminately gather them and destroy their beds.

Kapis, also locally known as "*lampirong*," is a bivalve mollusk with translucent shell and small body. The creatures used to abound in the coastal waters of the southern towns of Oton, Tigbauan and Guimbal along the Gulf of Panay.

Bay-ad, a close cousin of *kapis*, is known to thrive in the Banate Bay along the coasts of the northern towns of Leganes, Barotac Nuevo, Anilao, Dumangas and Banate. Both mollusks are valued for their meat.

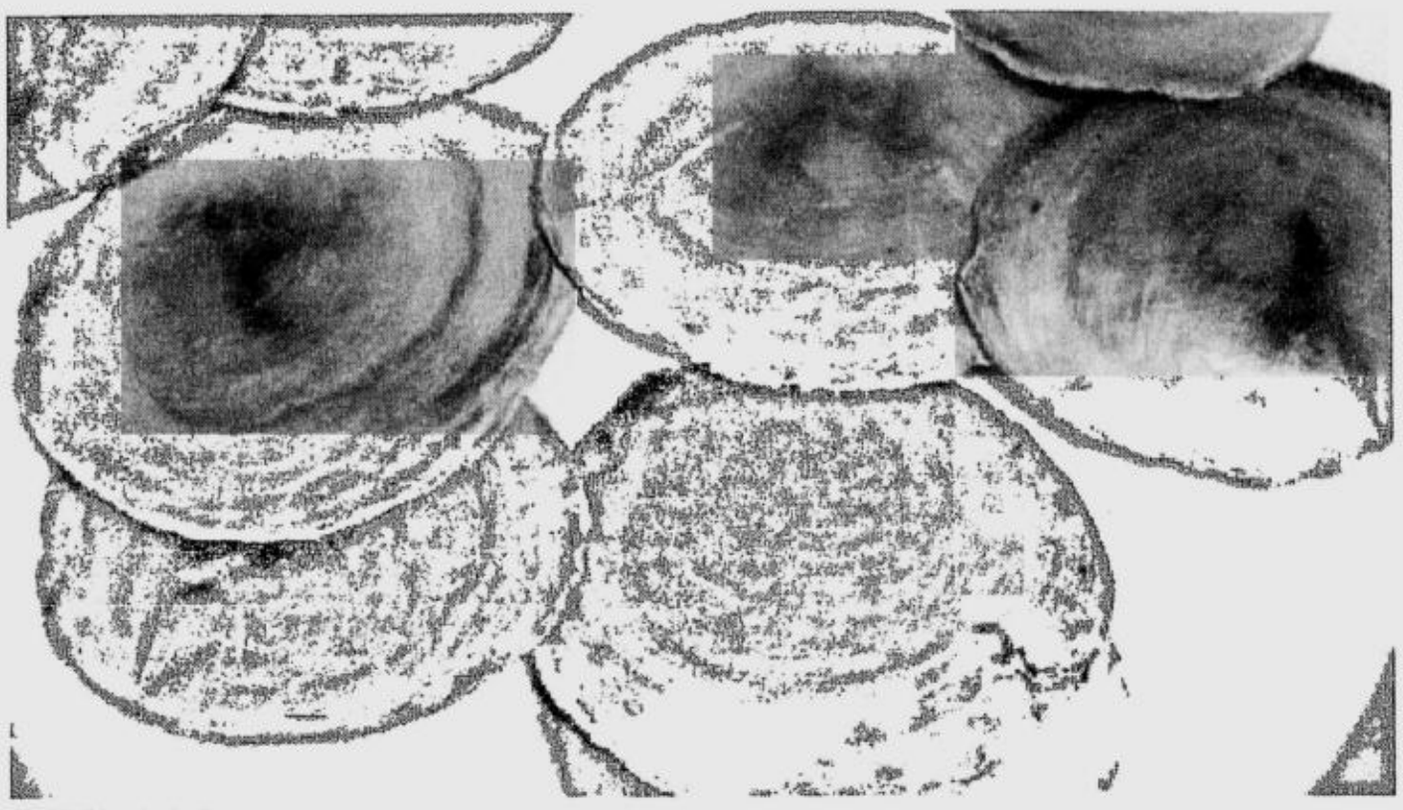
According to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center-Aquaculture Department (Seafdec-AQD), the *kapis* meat contains 23.2 grams of protein per 100 grams, which is higher than those of mussels and oysters. Many Ilonggos prefer *bay-ad* because its meat is thicker and bigger.

But more than its meat, *kapis* is prized for its shell which can be made into window panes, lampshades, chandeliers, glass covers, wind chimes, wall panels and flower vases, among other items.

From the 1960s to early 1990, *kapis* served the country's export-oriented shell craft industry.

Seafdec noted that in 1991, *kapis* shell ranked fifth among the major fishery exports, earning $35 million. The shells can be also pounded and used as components for making glue, chalk, varnish, soldering lead and paint.

Bay-ad is also a material for shell craft but is considered second-rate because its shell is concave with only a small flat portion.



ADULT kapis shell

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOCELYN LADJA OF SEAFDEC-AQD

No match

Jocelyn Madrones-Ladja, a researcher at Seafdec-AQD, believed that the demise of *kapis* in the coastal waters of southern Iloilo, one of the 27 *kapis* beds in the country, was due to the rise of prawn hatcheries and indiscriminate harvesting.

In the late 1980s, prawn hatcheries flushed antibiotics-laced water back to the sea and the contamination might have killed the *kapis*, a filter feeder. Although a highly prolific breeder, *kapis* was no match to an army of harvesters hired by agents of shell craft companies.

The shells are handpicked in shallow areas, but in waters 10 to 100 meters deep, the harvesters use compressors for dredging and raking. Dredging from trawl boats and raking are destructive methods because they gather the juveniles, also called recruits, and brood stock.

Seafdec's Eva Aldon said the massive harvesting occurred between the late 1970s and the late 1980s following the increased demand for *kapis* shells in Europe and Japan.

Bay-ad beds are also raked, resulting in the destruction of both young and adults. The mollusk disappeared in the coastal waters of northern Iloilo during the same period that *kapis* did.

The culprit is also over-harvesting for food. *Bay-ad* is a top *pulutan* (food to go with a drink) choice of the Ilonggo.

Efforts to revive *kapis* in southern Iloilo waters started in October 1999 based on Seafdec studies which suggested that the bluish soft-mud in these areas could still support the growth and development of the mollusk.

The coastal waters of Namocon in Tigbauan, Trapiche in Oton, and Nalundan in Guimbal were re-seeded with brood stock gathered from Negros Occidental, with Seafdec working with the mayors of these towns. A series of meetings with fishers, former *kapis* gatherers and local fishery officials were held to ensure community participation in the restocking project.

It also helped that the hatcheries that used to dot the southern coasts had closed down after the decline of the prawn industry in the province.

The locals were asked to guard the areas from destructive fishing methods like trawl and haul boat (*hulbot-hulbot*). They were also requested not to harvest *kapis* for at least one year and a half to allow the mollusks to spawn for at least three generations.

Pressures

Samples taken 15 days after the seeding already showed the presence of *kapis* larvae in the waters off Oton and Tigbauan. However, the *kapis* placed at Guimbal, along with the floats and markers, disappeared without a trace.

News of the spawning success spread so fast that barely a year after the re-seeding, fishers in Oton and Tigbauan mounted pressure campaigns on their mayors to abruptly end the moratorium on harvesting.

Ladja said that despite the appeals of Seafdec researchers to allow them to harvest first in order to measure and weigh the mollusks, as well as assess the *kapis* beds, fishers discreetly harvested at night.

The harvesters were said to be fishers from Negros, who rammed their buoys and markers. "We never had a chance to record the growth and size of *kapis* nor surveyed the mature shells in their natural beds," said Aldon of the Technology and Verification and Extension Section of Seafdec.

Disappointed, the agency no longer seeded the coastal waters of the three villages. Instead, it stocked the *kapis* breeders in the waters near its buildings in Tigbauan in August last year.

A stainless steel pen, strong enough to withstand water currents and uprooting by trawls and dredges, protected the breeders. Since the larvae travel for 14 days at a maximum distance of 15 kilometers before settling in the muddy bottom, Ladja hoped that the breeders would be able to spawn the southern coastal waters, even up to Iloilo City's famous Villa Beach in Arevalo.

Thrilling news

The return of the *bay-ad* to the waters of northern Iloilo was among the "thrilling news" received in August by the provincial government led by Gov. Niel D. Tupas Sr. The reappearance was attributed to the fishery conservation program of Leganes, Barotac Nuevo, Anilao, Dumangas and Banate since 1996.

Tupas, however, warned that coastal villages might lose the shell "too soon" if the over-extraction continued. He asked the northern towns to regulate harvesting, like enacting a common fishery ordinance that imposes uniform penalties on violators.

The extraction of undersized *bay-ad* by sackloads was among the concerns fisheries officials raised in their quarterly meeting last month.

"Our efforts the past years are paying off, but we have to ensure its sustainability," said Ildefonso Toledo, assistant chief of the fisheries division of the provincial agriculture office (PAO).

But, he added, "We have to admit that there is widespread poverty among coastal communities and the people's immediate impulse is to extract as much as they could, even juveniles, to ensure their own meals."

Regulations

So far, though, only Leganes, 11 kilometers north of Iloilo City, imposed regulations on the harvesting of *bay-ad*.

Eulogio Fortin, the town's fishery technician, said harvesting for meals and sale in the local market was tolerated, but shipment outside of the town was banned.

The most exploited area in Leganes is the mudflat at Barangay Camangay which coastal villagers visit daily to pick the shell. The harvest area stretches to as far as Iloilo City's coastal village of Nabitasan in La Paz District, where the shell has also reappeared.

Leganes is now conducting public hearings for its fishery ordinance, according to Fernando de Castro, chief of the fisheries division of the PAO.

By going after blast fishers and trawl boats and their crew, reforesting the mangrove areas, constructing artificial reefs and raising the awareness of communities, the town's coastal waters has regained their vigor.

De Castro said Banate Bay harbors 14,000 hectares of fish sanctuary that was established in 1997. He said the regeneration of *bay-ad* could be linked to the rehabilitation of the bay and the new-found *bay-ad* in Leganes and Iloilo City could be a result of the restoration of the Banate Bay.

A festival for Negros Oriental, finally

By Romy Amarado
Dumaguete City

FINALLY, Negros Oriental has a festival it can truly call its own.

The rousing success of last week's Buglasan Festival, Negros Oriental's festival of festivals has convinced local officials to institutionalize the weeklong celebration.

Gov. George Arnaiz has requested the provincial board to pass an ordinance to ensure that the activity will be held every year.

"Buglasan should be held every year because it is a major tourist attraction of the province," Arnaiz said.

Buglasan is derived from the word Buglas, the original name of Negros Oriental, which means reed or marsh grass that used to abound in the province during the pre-Spanish era.

The festival showcases the province's rich cultural and traditional heritage, dramatized through dances and rituals. It was introduced by Foundation University in the early 1980s but went into hibernation a few years later.

About five years ago, the festival was revived by the provincial government upon the prodding of former vice governor Edgar Teves. But later, it could not be held regularly because of lack of funds and enthusiasm of several key officials.

Realizing the tourism potential of Negros Oriental, the provincial officials decided to use the festival as a vehicle to promote their place. This time, the festival was held on the first week of October, to coincide with the third annual convention of the Association of Travel Operators in the Philippines held in Dumaguete City.

Features

The event did not only focus on dances and rituals but also featured varied cultural shows, fireworks, bands, and competitions of creativity in booth making and agro-fair. The scheme worked.

Provincial board member Mariant Escano Villegas, overall festival coordinator, said she was stunned by the turnout of the crowd. During the festival run from Sept. 30 up to Oct. 5, thousands of people from different parts of Negros Oriental and other provinces flocked to Dumaguete.

"The tourists came by families, which is just what we had hoped for," Villegas said.

Most of the visitors were first-timers, she said. Some guests from Manila planed in through Bacolod City, thinking that Dumaguete did not have an airport.

"Now, they know about us and they will remember Negros Oriental when they think of going somewhere for a vacation," Villegas said.

"It was really amazing that the multitude, both young and old, continued to visit the area from the opening up to the end," beamed Michael Elman, chair of the Negros Oriental Tourism Council.

"Buglasan generated no less than P10 million in economic activity for Negros Oriental," Elman revealed.

Street dancing

The traditional street dancing competition, held on Oct. 2, drew many spectators.

The Tawo-tawo (Scarecrow) Festival of Bayawan City, which portrayed scarecrows as the traditional sentinels of ripening crops, was adjudged champion in the contest. Another crowd favorite, the Yag-yag (Scattered) Festival, which also commemorates a successful harvest, took second place.

WINNING smiles from the dances of Tawo-Tawo Festival of Bayawan City, this year's champion in the Buglasan Festival.

ROMY AMARADO

Dumaguete's popular Sandurot Festival, which depicts the first arrival of foreigners on its shores, was third, while Sta. Catalina's Sakobhan Festival placed fourth. *With a report from Alex Pal*

Businesses shy away from MassKara

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda

IT'S only about a week before the yearly celebration of Bacolod's MassKara Festival peaks with the observance of the city's Charter Day, but officials have not yet resolved their differences over who should run the event.

It all started when the city council objected to a decision of Mayor Luzviminda Valdez to award the exclusive right to handle the festival to the MassKara Foundation Inc. Some of the council members, led by Vice Mayor Ramiro Garcia Jr., questioned the awarding, claiming that the group had not rendered any accounting of the funds it had generated in previous celebrations.

The foundation hit back, demanding also that proper accounting be made for the years when the city itself had handled the activity. So far, nobody has responded to each other's demand for the report, although a lot of heated exchanges have further darkened the atmosphere.

And there was the problem of the number of barangays willing to take part in the street-dancing competition, which, after all, is the heart and soul of MassKara. So far, only 18 out of 61 barangays have registered for it.

As for the Open Category, which used to be presented by big department stores and business entities, all of them have begged off, citing financial problems. So the street dancing days had to be pared down to only one.

More problems came with the hesitancy of the barangays to go on with their participation when they could not find sponsors to fund their presentation.

Valdez promised to give each participating group a subsidy of P80,000, but this was easier said than done. Since she had pledged the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) funds given to the city, their disbursement would require city council approval. The council stonewalled for a time, but probably realizing that its members would need the barangays come election time, capitulated. It finally approved the release of funds—but only half of what the mayor was asking or P40,000.

* * *

DANCING in the streets is not all that is bothering the city officials these days.

The Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) has threatened to disconnect power to City Hall unless it pays its outstanding bills that have already reached some P30 million. The co-op has set a deadline, so the city had to cough up P2.1 million this week, with a promise to set a payment plan for the rest.

The city had to pay up because Ceneco had already made an example of Los Amigos Development Corp. by disconnecting power to its entertainment area, the Goldenfields Commercial Complex.

The corporation was found last year to have pilfered electricity by installing several devices and the stolen current was estimated to cost some P30 million. After some arrangement with the Ceneco management and a token payment, the power connection was restored.

However, recent attempts to collect payment were met with defiance by Los Amigos, whose lawyers now claim that it no longer owed any amount, hence the disconnection.

* * *

THE FLAVOR of the month in Bacolod is an "automated clearance machine" at the city police office that was accidentally discovered by nosy media people. Suddenly, there was a machine that could produce police clearances in a few minutes, compared to the old system that took days. The problem was that most officials did not know about its installation, particularly the city council that should have approved it first.

More and more worms crawled out when it was also found that only the outgoing police chief had signed the memorandum of agreement to install the machine. A search for the questioned MOA yielded negative results—nobody knew who kept it or what it contained.

Eventually, it was discovered that the company running the machine was Logic Gate Enterprises, which charges P60 per clearance compared to the P10 charged for the manual method. What was more questionable was that the company was using space in the police office, as well as its electricity and other facilities, without sharing its income with the city.

Media people first heard Valdez denying that she had anything to do with the enterprise, especially when talks went around that her son, who is also employed by the city, and her husband, who is an undersecretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication, were involved. But later, she admitted to having affixed her signature to the missing MOA but stressed that it was only for serving as a witness.

The council had requested Logic Gate to stop its operations at the police office.

Extortionists behind blast, says Cotabato governor

From page A1

Asked if the NPA and the MILF were involved, he said it was possible that members of the two groups had discussed the bombing. "That is why we are going to arrest them ... That is the initial report that we got. No one else would do that," he said.

Police, however, are still trying to determine the identities of the bombers, Defensor admitted.

At a press briefing, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that while "there are clearly terrorists in our midst," the military had yet to identify those behind the attack.

Reyes said he would not be surprised if extremist groups had linked up with the NPA to stage terror attacks.

The MILF decried what it called a futile effort by "anti-peace quarters" to stall peace negotiations between the government and the secessionist group by linking it to acts of terror.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the group did not target civilians. "The bombing was a plain act of terrorism, which the MILF does not adopt. Nothing less," he told Radio dxMS in Cotabato City.

Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said it was not the practice of the NPA, its armed wing, to inflict violence on civilians.

"For all we know, the bombing could be the work of the dirty tricks department of the AFP," Rosal said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Lucena City.

He said the military wanted to sow panic in order to facilitate the easy passage of the anti-terrorism bill pending in Congress.

He also said it was the NPA's "standing policy" not to engage in activities that would endanger public safety. He cited past incidents wherein NPA offensives were directed only at active members of the police, military, militia and other armed groups under the AFP's command.

P500,000 bounty

Pinol said the government was offering P500,000 for information that would lead to the bombers' arrest.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo provided half of the bounty.

The MILF's Kabalu said it was "more than willing to help" track down the bombers who, according to authorities, are based in Cotabato City.

"We condemn this act to the highest level," he said. "It was an un-Islamic act, and those responsible must suffer the consequence of their act of terror."

Jun Adam, manager of the Cotabato terminal of Weena Bus Co., said the firm had earlier received extortion letters from various groups including one calling itself the Urban Line Group.

He said even the Indigenous Peoples Federal Army had been trying to collect from the firm.

"The management rejected the demands and employed stricter security measures in buses plying the Cotabato-Davao route for the safety of our passengers," Adam said.

Pinol had earlier blamed the "lousy intelligence network" of the Philippine National Police in Kidapawan for the attack that also injured 25 people.

He said the police clearly ignored bomb threats prior to the explosion.

"The police should have implemented stricter security measures, like checkpoints and blockades, to prevent such an incident," he said.

But Pinol pointed out that the suggested relief of Chief Supt. Casimiro Medes, the city police chief, would be a knee-jerk reaction to the problem. "It's not the solution," he said.

Medes said they were following certain leads that could help identify the bombers.

He said that minutes before the explosion, a man wearing a black jacket was seen carrying a box probably containing the bomb.

"The man looked like he was waiting for a ride, then he suddenly left a package and hurriedly walked away," Medes said, quoting a witness.

He said the man could have planned to plant the bomb—which, according to experts, was fashioned out of a 60mm mortar shell and packed in a container with highly flammable fluid—in one of the buses parked in the terminal.

Medes aired the police's suspicion that Thursday's bombers were also responsible for previous attacks on Weena Bus Co.

"I would like to believe that this incident has something to do with the bombing two months ago" that injured seven people, he said.

'Dragon Group'

Policemen received a bomb threat before the explosion but they could not determine where the blast was to occur.

Chief Supt. Jose Dalumpines, police director for Region 12, said in a phone interview that an unidentified man called the Kidapawan police station on Thursday "to ask if a bomb had already exploded" in the city.

He said the call prompted city police officials to dispatch policemen to crowded areas to provide security to residents and search for explosive devices.

"Unfortunately, the suspect slipped past the security and set off the bomb at the least unexpected place," he said.

Dalumpines ruled out the involvement of foreign terrorists, like the Indonesia-based militant group Jemaah Islamiah believed to have links with the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, in the bomb attack.

"It has nothing to do with al- Qaida," he said.

Dalumpines echoed PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., who said Thursday night that extortionists belonging to the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF or the NPA were behind the assault.

He said a "Dragon Group" was notorious for engaging in extortion in the city. "Definitely, this is the work of extortionists. But we don't know if they belong to the MILF, Abu Sayyaf or NPA," Dalumpines said. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pimentel wants gov't intelligence men axed

THE INTELLIGENCE community should be revamped starting with the police intelligence chief and his men for failure to anticipate and prevent the series of bombings in Mindanao, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference, Pimentel also said the Thursday explosion in Kidapawan City should prod legislators to scrutinize intelligence funds particularly now that Congress was examining the national government's proposed budget for next year.

"The situation in Mindanao is getting more and more serious," he said. "Obviously, the intelligence capability of our police units are not at par with the demands of the situation. It looks like the police are caught in a situation where they will always be reactive rather than preventive or proactive."

Pimentel said police should bring the bombers to jail. "It's not enough for them to say that it's the handiwork of terrorists," he said.

Sen. Robert Barbers agreed, but said he was leaving to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor the decision to replace the chief of military intelligence. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Tesda boss turns tables on Philskills

From page A1

fare, accommodations and other expenses.

"Philskills is supposed to be an association of people who are supposed to be helping in the provincial skills competition," Liban said. "It committed to raise the money for the national competition, but we saw no indication that the money was being raised as late as September. So we had to do it on our own. The honor of the Philippines was at stake here."

Realigned funds

Tesda deputy director general Milagros Hernandez said the agency had initially sought Malacañang's permission to realign the P3.42 million it received late for the national skills competition in Davao last year.

But Malacañang asked Tesda to return the check to the President's Social Fund and then ordered Pagcor to give Tesda the same amount, Hernandez said.

Liban emphasized that the P3.2 million from the President's Social Fund was released only after the Davao event, which is why Tesda requested that the funds be used instead for the Asean competition.

But Liban said Philskills president Dionisio Magpantay also has some explaining to do.

He said Pagcor informed Tesda in September that it had given Magpantay P500,000 for the Asean competition, but Liban said Magpantay failed to mention the donation.

Philskills had earlier written several letters requesting Pagcor to release P10 million as funding for the Asean competition. The foundation had also written letters to the Office of the President requesting her endorsement. INQUIRER obtained copies of the documents.

When Pagcor released P3.4 million directly to Tesda, Philskills wrote a letter to Atty. Erlinda M. B. de Leon of the Presidential Management Staff, declaring that the money should have gone to Philskills since it was the soliciting foundation.

In his letter, Magpantay also wrote: "There is going to be a media fiasco if this matter is not handled properly."

Liban said that he believed "Magpantay has an agenda that is far from the truth," adding: "he could be trying to hide something."

"Tesda only received P3.4 million, and I am happy to say that we even had a little savings," Liban said. "We cannot hijack government funds as Magpantay claimed. We could account for the money. Magpantay must also be accountable for the money he received from Pagcor and other donations that he could have received from private donors. We will ask him for an accounting."

Ties cut

Liban has cut Tesda's ties with Philskills, which has been working with the agency for 10 years.

"If you give them a second chance, they might do it again. We want transparency, which they don't want to comply with," Liban said.

Liban effectively dismissed the authorization issued by then-Tesda chief Lucy Lazo to Philskills to solicit funds for the Asean event. Yesterday, he said he had even prepared a memorandum of agreement to "validate" Philskills' deal with Lazo, but that the group had refused to sign.

Liban said that Philskills had also committed to raise funds for the national skills competition held last year, but it was only able to raise P1 million for the event, forcing Tesda to raise the money, amounting to almost P11 million.

Liban also dismissed Lazo's letter to Malacañang placing Philskills in charge of the national delegation, saying the former Tesda chief may just have been "overwhelmed by the offer from Philskills."

Tesda officials presented the country's winners in the Asean event to the President last week. Yesterday, Liban said the performance of the Filipino contingent was proof of Tesda's successful efforts.

Philskills is preparing a manifesto withdrawing private sector support from Tesda, while mulling the filing of charges against Liban, Hernandez and other Tesda officials.

Magpantay said the liquidation of the group's expenses was with the Philskills board.

What to do with Imelda's gowns?

From page A1

Supposedly on the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Marcoses' personal belongings, mostly the clothes and shoes of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, were removed from Malacañang and transported to the PCGG warehouse in Mandaluyong City.

The late dictator's son and namesake is outraged.

"*Pati ba naman yan, pinag-iinitan* (Why are they picking on such trivial items)?" Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said yesterday in Laoag City. "Have these people no dignity? Have they no honor? Have they no respect? It's unconscionable."

He added: "What will they do with (the stuff)? Will they be going after our properties again? They will come into our homes again? When will this end?"

Avena told reporters at a press briefing that the PCGG was mulling over the safekeeping or disposal of the Marcos items.

She said that "maybe it is possible" to have the items returned or sold to the Marcos heirs, but she conceded that the possibility could be remote.

"We have to see the implications of these options," she said, adding that the PCGG first had to determine the exact value of the items.

Avena said the gowns and accessories could have evidentiary value that could prove or symbolize ill-gotten wealth.

She also said the historical, cultural or commercial value of the items would likewise be assessed.

The Marcos heirs are still negotiating with the government over the family's sequestered assets both here and abroad.

They have time and again raised the need to settle all court proceedings on their supposed ill-gotten wealth through a negotiated settlement with the government.

Extremely upset

Asked whether his family was thinking of retaliatory moves, Marcos Jr. said the matter was up to his mother.

"She is extremely upset to the point that she's almost saying that she's withdrawing any offer of settlement with this government," he said.

Asked to comment on whether the transfer of his parents' belongings had to do with his supposed planned team-up with movie star Fernando Poe Jr. for the 2004 presidential race, the governor said: "I doubt it. They don't think that big. They're much pettier than that."

According to media observers, Malacañang is discrediting the Marcoses to thwart the governor and his sister, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, in case they decide to forge an alliance with the opposition for the 2004 elections.

The Marcoses, reports said, had been holding back-channel negotiations with Poe in preparation for 2004.

The governor recently invited Poe to lunch at his seaside residence in Laoag, where they discussed, among other things, the actor's rumored plan to seek the presidency.

Gov't sets final terms with Reds

From page A1

nal peace agreement had been "generally accepted" by a parallel government committee.

His message was overshadowed by Reyes' deadline-driven announcement, however, which came in the wake of stepped-up NPA offensives against police detachments and public property last week.

In a press briefing, Reyes admitted that the government was exhausted from 10 years of seemingly endless negotiations. "What is happening is that we have been negotiating with the communists for the past 10 years, and nothing is happening," he said.

He added: "What was happening was that in the past 10 years, the CPP-NPA has been making impossible and unreasonable demands that are unacceptable to any sovereign state."

He said that, upon the instruction of President Macapagal-Arroyo, an inter-agency committee was drafting an "integrated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional" solution to the problem. "And because the insurgency problem has political, economic and historical roots, then the solution must have these components. The military approach is only to run after the NPA rebels who have committed atrocities and against civilian communities," Reyes said.

"We want to negotiate with sincerity and we are not seeing that on the other side. We don't want to be terrorized into the negotiating table," he added.

European campaign

In a chance interview, Ople said his European campaign was not meant to derail the peace talks but to force communist rebels to give up the armed struggle. "(It) is not a policy to end the peace talks," he said.

He noted that the Philippine government had already declared the CPP-NPA a terrorist organization in a recent Cabinet meeting, several months after the United States, through its state department, made a similar declaration.

Ople heads a high-level mission that leaves late this afternoon for Singapore en route to Europe. He will be making stops in Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The other mission members include presidential adviser for the peace process Edgardo Ermita, presidential adviser for special concerns Norberto Gonzales and Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable.

Ople said the campaign would not compromise the peace negotiations. "The door is open and the informal talks according to my understanding is taking place."

"We do want the CPP-NPA to come to the table but we demand that they lay down their arms as part of the peace process. They don't want to do that," he said.

In Lucena City, the CPP spokesperson scoffed at government's demand to lay down arms as a precondition for peace talks.

"The laying down of arms by the rebels has been the real goal of the Macapagal-Arroyo government in these dubious peace efforts by her administration," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a cell phone interview yesterday.

"But we won't give her the satisfaction of seeing us surrender our firearms. That won't happen. The only reason why we have her attention is because of our firearms. If we will submit to her demand, that's the end of the road for all of us," Rosal said.

In Makilala, Cotabato, Senate majority leader Loren Legarda said before the government terminates peace talks, it should first verify the survey findings the President cited. "I still want to know how that survey (was done)," Legarda said.

She warned the administration against abandoning the peace talks. "The situation will even become worse if we just arbitrarily and unilaterally cancel the negotiations. I think it is right that we pursue the peace talks," she said.

Bello said the President had directed the peace panel he heads to prepare a draft of the final peace agreement.

"As soon we get the approval of the final agreement, we would go to The Netherlands and convince (the NDF) to accept the new process framework," Bello told reporters before the launch of a new peace forum.

"I'm very confident that before the year ends we may be able to resume the peace talks," he said, adding that Norway could be the next site of new negotiations.

The talks will firm up the agreements on social and economic reforms. Both parties had already agreed on the first substantive item in the agenda: respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

After two rounds of formal talks in Norway in April and June last year, the negotiations—on and off since they began in 1992—stopped last year after the government called the NPA's assassination of Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo a "violation of the mutual commitment of both panels to undertake confidence-building measures."

Only back-channeling talks, a total of four since January this year, have been held thus far. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jeffrey M. Tupas and Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)
SUERTRES
2 3 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 10 28 31 34 40

SPORTS

RP 5 battles S. Korea today A20

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

3-DAY DROUGHT ENDS

Pinoys collar 5 bronzes

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines won five bronze medals as it returned to the medal column yesterday, even as wushu assured the country of three more bronzes in the 14th Asian Games here.

Taekwondo produced three and karatedo two a day before Harry Tanamor and the Filipino cagers go into crucial battles that would assure them of silver medals if they win.

Salvaging the bronze medals were taekwondo jins Tshomlee Go, Daleen Cordero and Veronica Domingo, and karatekas Gretchen Malalad and Cherli Tugday.

Go defeated Fayziev Firuz of Tajikistan for the bronze in the men's flyweight, and Cordero defeated Thsomo Tandin of Bhutan in the women's flyweight.

And Domingo claimed hers in the women's welterweight.

The 22-year-old Malalad, a gold medalist in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games last year, beat Bhipave Charagrang of Thailand, while Tugday rallied in the repechage against Obaid Ali-Mariam of the United Arab Emirates for the other karateka bronze in the individual kata.

Wushu's Rexel Nganhayna, Marvin Sicomen, and Eduard Folayang secured the bronze medals after hurdling their respective quarterfinals opponents even as the country ranked fourth after the first round of the team competition in equstrian showjumping.

"Very good," said coach Samson Co of his wushu bets.

Joseph Pasiwat was not as lucky as he lost to China Lu Tse-Tung in the 60-kg match. Pasiwat, however, earned praise from Co.

Mikaela Jaworski, daughter in law of Sen. Robert Jaworksi, and Danielle Cojuangco both finished with clear rounds on board Ascot T and Rusty Rouge.

Antoinette "Toni" Leviste had one fault as the Filipinos trailed co-leaders Japan and Korea and number three Malaysia three by one penalty point.

Mikee Jaworski had an optimistic view of things, however. "We will know the final outcome only by tomorrow. However, I am happy with today's result."

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

Among those cheering them were their parents and relatives former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco and wife Gretchen, former Tarlac Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Mikee's husband Dodot, Rep. Mark Cojuangco and wife Miki, Leviste's mother Elia and Olympic boss Cito Dayrit and chef de mission Tom Carrasco.

With their five bronze medals yesterday, the Philippines was in sixth spot among the Southeast Asian nations as Vietnam climbed to 16th with a 4-3-4 gold-silver-bronze performance against the Philippines, which has 2-3-11.

The 24-year-old Tanamor, the last hope for the boxing gold medal, has a tough foe today in defending champion Suban Pannon of Thailand.

Pannon, the light flyweight gold medalist in the 1988 Bangkok Asiad, also saw action in both the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics, but his knee has become suspect after an injury in Sydney 2000.

Should he win today, Tanamor, from Zamboanga City, will be assured of a silver medal and will fight for the gold on Monday against the winner of the bout between the fighter from South Korea and Tajikistan.

A loss by Tanamor will duplicate the shutout boxing suffered in Bangkok four years ago after winning three gold medals in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

The Filipino cagers are hoping to upset the Koreans in their 3 p.m. encounter even as karatekas Ernesto Halili, Ryan Bonifacio Mariano and Junel Berania start their own campaign for gold medals today.

Coach Jong Uichico prepared a game plan that would attempt to derail the shooting touch of the normally deadly Korean wingmen, even as the Filipinos decry the host's refusal to allow them to practice in the game's new venue.

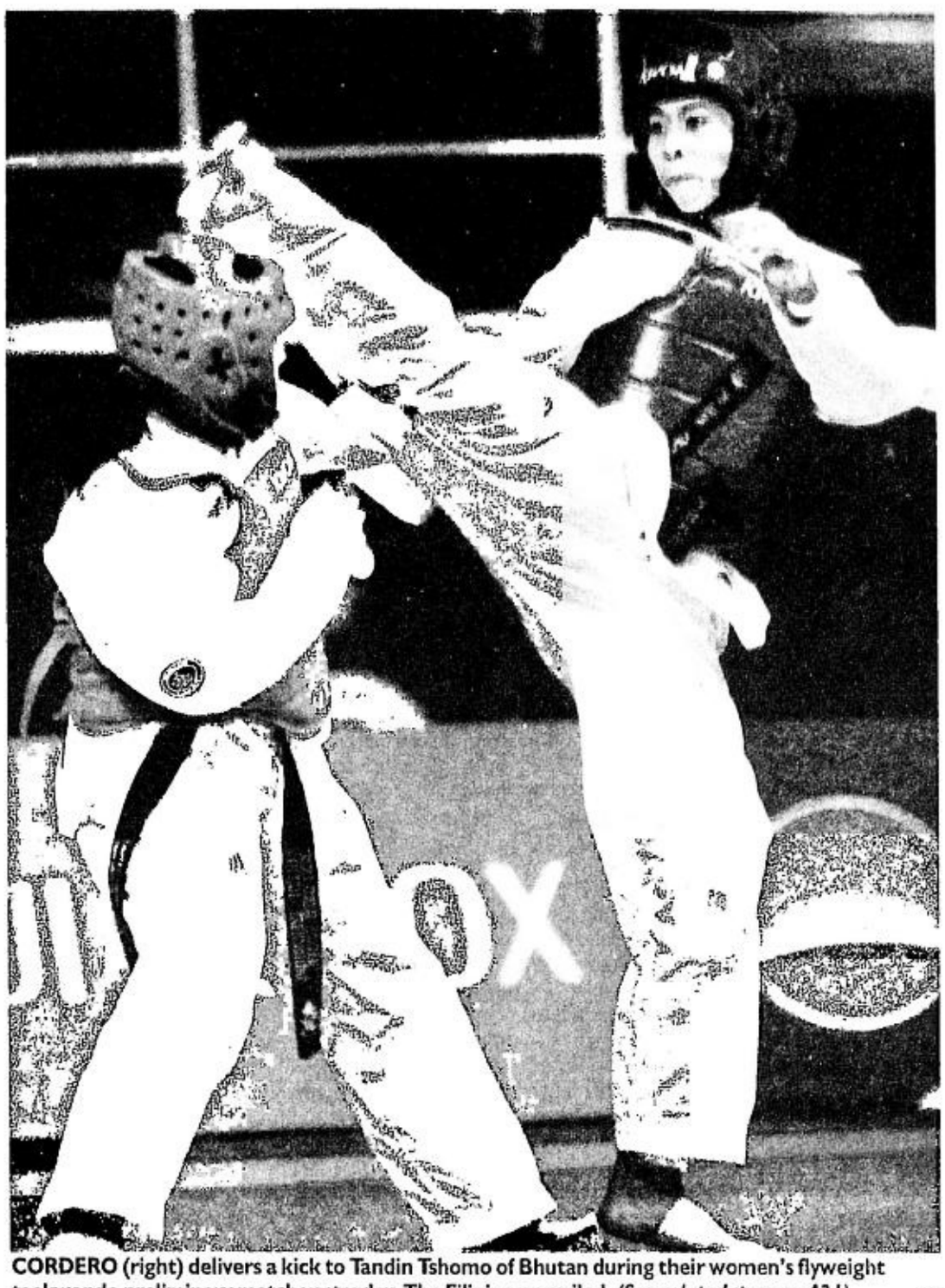
"We wanted to have a feel of the new hardcourt," said Uichico. "Unfortunately, they denied us even that very elementary request."

As a recourse, Uichico said he and his wards will arrive at the Busan National University Education Gymnasium "very, very early so that we can cram in some little knowledge we need to know about the playing condition."

He said they have devised a particular drill on defense yesterday against the Koreans, who are seeking a rematch with China for the gold medal won by the Chinese in Bangkok four years ago.

In the likelihood that the Philippines upset South Korea, the Filipinos will battle China on Monday for the gold.

Otherwise, the Filipinos face Kazakhstan tomorrow for the bronze, in a repeat of the showdown for third place in the 1998 Games.



CORDERO (right) delivers a kick to Tandin Tshomo of Bhutan during their women's flyweight taekwondo preliminary match yesterday. The Filipina prevailed. *(See related story on A21)* AFP

Athletes don't fail

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea–One easy job of a columnist is to criticize. What is not easy, however, is to back up the criticism with facts, if not sound logic.

The officials as well as athletes competing here are always easy targets of criticism. They are like politicians: Always in the headlines. When you are visible, you are open to shots. Go to the foxhole and your chief worry would be the earthworms. You don't even have to tell the snipers to get lost because snipers don't waste their bullets on cowards.

Hands coordinating Philippine participation in the Games can be open season, too. It's never easy handling hundreds of athletes and officials ranged against thousands of athletes and officials from 43 other nations entered here. One mistake and that can be grist for column.

But will it be worth it? Pouncing on the mistakes of your own countrymen while the two of you are abroad fighting for flag and country?

There's a limit to everything. You are a journalist back home, a Filipino first before being a journalist when in a strange land where honor and not dishonor is the paramount concern.

When is the time to criticize the athlete? When he fails?

What I know is, an athlete never fails. He just loses–after giving it his/her best shot.

When is the time to criticize an official? When he falters?

What I know is, an official never falters. He just makes mistakes–after giving it his/her best shot.

You stop thinking like human, stop acting like human, and you won't think and act like human; you stop believing that to err is human, to forgive is divine.

Cultures also play a big part in the Games so that one snafu could sour up diplomatic relations.

I raise a glass to Cito Dayrit's effort to help Josephine Paguyo reclaim her slot in soft tennis. But when the Filipino Olympic president was told by the hosts the fault was not theirs, Dayrit readily backed off. You can't argue a case if the error emanated from you. If Filipino hospitality means also bending a little the rules, the Koreans do it here differently. Sticklers of rules, that's what they are.

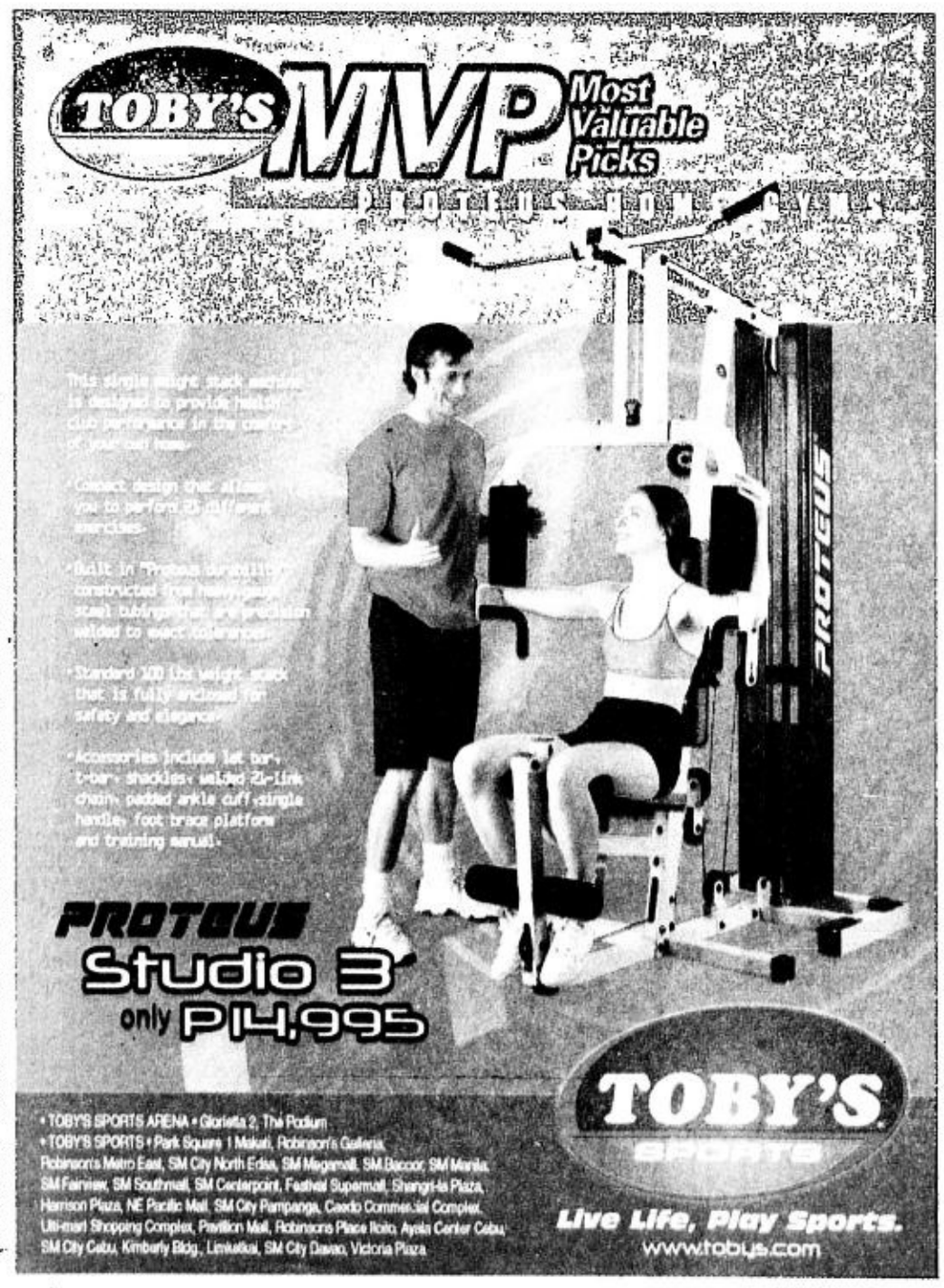
I raise a glass to Eric Buhain for his fortitude. He didn't bite the bait from guys out to malign his men, like Tats Suzara, Arsenic Lacson, Boying Viola-Santos and Lorenz Manguiat, who work their butts out to ensure the smooth coordination among Filipino athletes and officials entered in this 44-nation Games.

I raise a glass to the hosts, too. When they discovered it was their fault that the name of middle-distance runner John Lozada was not in the list, they readily rectified their error.

A losing athlete can be ridiculed that easy. But have we asked ourselves why he lost? If we did, would it still be proper to hit him/her? Uzi-seros have no place here.

One should know the sacrifices an athlete has to go through just to be here. This is no picnic. This is war. Who said sports is Paris? The Asian Games is Afghanistan. Winning the gold medal here is like climbing Mt. Everest.

I wonder if Mr. Everyman knew that.



Karatekas Malalad, Tugday deliver

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA–Philippine katatekas began their campaign yesterday on a winning note as Gretchen Malalad and Cherli Tugday salvaged bronze medals in the Asian Games here.

The 22-year-old Malalad, a 5-foot-6 charmer, defeated Bipave Charagrang of Thailand to advance to the semifinals against Malaysia's Premila Supramanyam. Supramanyam's first round victim was Vietnam's Nguyen Titu Tranh.

But the afternoon battle did not bring luck to Malalad, a gold medalist last year in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games, who lost to Supramanyam and settled for the bronze medal in the 60 kg kumite.

Malalad injured her left shoulder during her first-round fight and this hampered her bid against Supramanyan.

Tugday also settled for the bronze but not after outclassing Obaid Ali Mariam of the United Arab Emirates in the afternoon repechage of the individual kata.

Tugday lost her first match to Atsuko Wakai, the many-time world champion from Japan, who went on to win the gold medal.

Ernesto Halili, Ryan Bonifacio Mariano and Junel Berania will start their own bid for the gold medal starting at 9 a.m. today.

MALALAD

Lady Archers seek 4th straight crown

By Dennis U. Eroa

STOP Minerva Narciza.

This will be La Salle's battlecry as the Lady Archers gun for their fourth straight UAAP women's basketball title against Adamson at 9 a.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The 5-foot-9 Narciza, a veteran of last year's SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, is proving to be the biggest thorn in La Salle's four-peat bid. The Lady Archers are trying to stop La Salle's bleeding in basketball after their men's team relinquished its title to Ateneo in an epic best-of-three series at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We're going to keep the title," said playmaking wonder Jessica Manalo, the other half of the popular Manalo twins tending La Salle's deadly backcourt. Completing the partnership is Jessamine, who happens to be one minute older than Jessica.

La Salle won Game One of the best-of-three, 72-63, but Adamson, which is being coached by Emelia Vega, the country's top woman pointguard, bounced back by winning Game Two, 58-54, sending the series into a decider.

In two games, the 5-foot-9 Narciza posted amazing averages of 26 points, 20 rebounds, three assists and seven turnovers. A native of Sison, Pangasinan, the SEA Games bronze medalist played an average of 36 minutes.

"She (Minerva) is unstoppable in the paint," said coach Vega, who played with Narciza in the biennial Games. "I'm sure La Salle will double or triple team her, but our shooters are ready."

Veteran Dorothy Torres, Analiza Dayson and Janet Yañez can burn the perimeter, giving a double headache for the Lady Archers.

"If we stop Narciza, our job will be much easier," said La Salle mentor Dax Castellano.

TANAMOR VS THAI

Boxing's last hope fights today

'We're all going to church to pray'

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Light-flyweight Harry Tanamor has the power of youth against the wisdom and experience of his Thai foe today in the Asian Games boxing competitions here.

Include the power of prayer.

"We're all going to church tomorrow and pray hard to our Lord Jesus Christ to spare us this one," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. "Harry is our last hope and God forbid He will not forsake us."

The 24-year-old Tanamor, already assured of a bronze medal, will fight Thailand's Suban Pannon for the silver and a possible gold medal that would avert a similar shutout the boxers absorbed four years ago in Bangkok.

He became the country's last hope after his seven teammates lost their bouts one after the other—Romeo Brin, Christopher Camat, Roel Laguna, Ferdie Gamo, Violito Payla, Maraon Golez and Anthony Igusquiza.

Tanamor, from Zamboanga City, has everything going for him in terms of youth and zest in this fight against the thirty-or-something Pannon.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

"We are not totally discounting the power of Pannon, however," said Lopez. "He may be old already but his experience should not be ruled out."

Pannon won the gold medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad after seeing action in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics where Onyok Velasco won the silver.

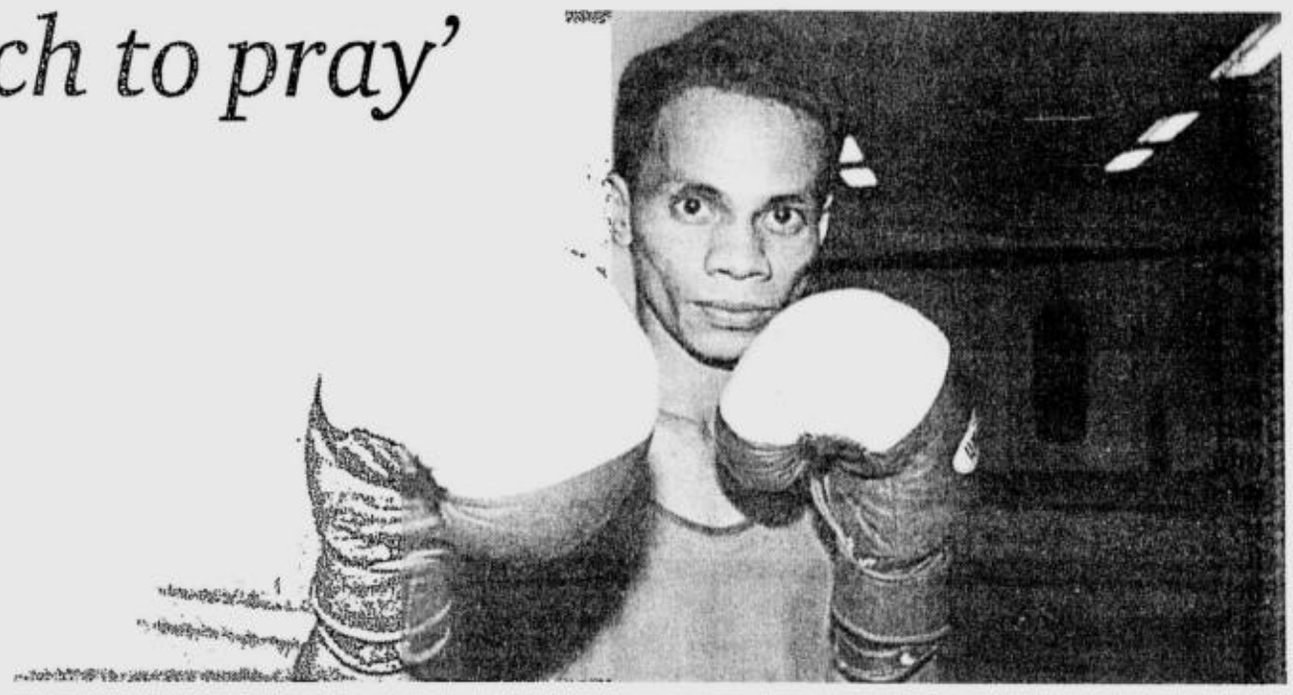
Pannon was also in the 2000 Sydney Olympics where the country lost potential medals on tactical blunders by the Lerio brothers (Danny and Arlan) arising mainly from the indiscretions of Cuban coach Raul Liranza Fernandez.

One thing going, too, for Tanamor is that Pannon has a nagging knee injury. Pannon twisted his knee and quit midway into his fight against Ukraine's Durego in the Sydney Olympics.

"If Tanamor can capitalize on that, our chances will be greater," said Lopez.

A major strategy would be for Tanamor to try to crowd Pannon, who managed to get this far by fighting his earlier victims from a distance.

"*Kailangang manalo* (I need to win this one)," said Tanamor. "*Kailangang pasayahin natin ang ating bayan* (We have to make our country happy)."



TANAMOR: 'I need to win this one.' JESS YUSON

'Assessment will come later'

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—On the eve of Harry Tanamor's much-awaited fight, boxing president Manny Lopez said he wasn't thinking of anything except his last surviving pug.

"Please, no final assessment yet," he pleaded when this writer tried to extract some explanations on what happened to his Great Eight. "We're still breathing."

Given high hopes to win at least two gold medals, the country's eight boxers are down to just one: Tanamor. The other seven have all bowed out—Romeo Brin, Christopher Camat, Roel Laguna, Ferdie Gamo, Maraon Golez, Violito Payla and Anthony Igusquiza.

The stinging setbacks were absorbed by Camat and Payla, who were touted to go all the way to the finals. They lost extremely close bouts.

Boxing

Tanamor, the 24-year-old from Zamboanga City, fights Thailand's Suban Pannon today seeking a win that would push him to the battle for the gold.

"A gold for Tanamor would be a shining gold for the country," said Lopez. "We are trying to move heaven and earth here just to make sure this gold will not get away."

He said that if Tanamor manages to slide past Pannon, the Filipino's chances of winning the gold on Monday look bright.

"We have bright chances," said Lopez. "*Pag nakalusot kay* Pannon, *maganda ang laban* (If we beat Pannon, we have a good fight coming up next)."

The winner of the Tanamor-Pannon fight will dispute the gold with the winner of the other bout pitting a South Korean and a pug from Tajikistan.

The hosts have so far advanced 10 boxers to the semifinals, with Pakistan producing six in the 12-event Games calendar.

In the 1986 Seoul Asiad, the Koreans swept all 12 gold medals staked.

Pinay riders rank 4th

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Mikaela Jaworski, known as Mikee Cojuangco in showbiz, and her niece, Danielle Cojuangco finished with clear rounds onboard Ascot T and Rusty Rouge yesterday as the Philippines ranked fourth in the equestrian team show jumping competition in the 14th Asian Games here.

The Filipinas finished the first half of action with four penalty points as Sydney Olympian Antoinette "Toni" Leviste atop Nazli committed one fault. They trailed spotless co-leaders Japan and Korea and third running Malaysia, going into today's final round.

Equestrian

"It was a costly minute," said Leviste of the fault she committed when her horse's hindleg knocked down the colored fence.

"She (Nazli) reacted after I kicked her because I also reacted when she slowed down after I set her up for a good jump."

The veteran rider, 68th placer in the last World Championship in Jerez, Spain, remains confident that the RP team would be able to bounce back today.

"We still have a chance tomorrow (today)," said Leviste. "We all have to jump clean and pray that the Japanese and Korean make mistakes for us to have a shot at the gold."

"I'm happy with the result but we won't know the final outcome at least tomorrow (today)," said Jaworski.

The other Filipino entry, Michelle Barrera atop Coleminer, had a penalty point and did not count.

Relatives of the riders like business tycoon Danding Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen, former Congressman Peping Cojuangco, Mikee's husband Dodot, Congressman Mark Cojuangco and Leviste's mom Elia watched the event.

They were joined by Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and chef de mission Tom Carrasco.

Delicano shoots for 66-year-old mark

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—A medal may be far from sight, but Joebert Delicano has another lofty goal to aim for—the longest standing record in Philippine athletics and, perhaps, the world.

The 22-year-old Delicano will take part in the long jump competitions today, aspiring to break Niño Ramirez's 66-year-old record leap of 7.65m at the Asiad Main Stadium here.

"Joebert has a good chance of finally breaking the long jump record owing to the high quality of competition," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok. "He'd come close to doing it many times."

Delicano came to within an inch of tying Ramirez's effort when he cleared 7.64m in the Asian Athletic Association Championships held in Sri Lanka in August. He even did a 7.67m then, but it was ruled a foul.

Since breaking into fame in 1999, when he set the Philippine boys' record of 7.41m, Delicano has been chasing Ramirez's standard set in the 1936 National Open.

A recurring right leg injury, however, has hampered his progress and even if he does break Ramirez's mark, it will still fall way short of the 8.12m Asiad record.

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	129	69	61	259
South Korea	73	67	77	217
Japan	41	65	63	169
Kazakhstan	16	17	21	54
Thailand	9	13	7	29
India	9	8	8	25
Chinese Taipei	8	14	19	41
N. Korea	8	11	11	30
Uzbekistan	8	9	15	32
Iran	5	9	13	27
Singapore	5	2	9	16
Saudi Arabia	5	1	6	13
Malaysia	4	8	11	23
Qatar	4	5	4	13
Hong Kong	4	4	9	17
Vietnam	4	4	4	12
Indonesia	2	6	8	16
Philippines	2	3	11	16
Bahrain	2	2	2	6
Sri Lanka	2	1	2	5
Kuwait	2	0	2	4
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Lebanon	1	0	1	2
Myanmar	0	5	5	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	5	9
Pakistan	0	2	6	8
Tajikistan	0	2	2	4
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Macau	0	1	2	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	2	2
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1
Jordan	0	0	1	1
Palestine	0	0	1	1
Nepal	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

adidas

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 12, 2002
(Korea time 1 hr. ahead of RP time)

Athletics
3 p.m.—J. Delicano, long jump, men (finals)
3:30 p.m.—E. Candelario, A. Jimar, R. Marfil, R. Tanuan Jr. 4x400m relay (1st rd)

Basketball
3 p.m.—RP vs Korea

Boxing
2 p.m.—H. Tanamor vs S. Pannon, Thailand, 48kg (lightflyweight)

Canoeing
10 a.m.—L. Escollante, A. Peñalosa, K-2 500m finals

Cycling
10 am to 1:30 p.m.—Women's MTB cross country, finals

Equestrian
9 am to 12 noon.—M. Barrera, D. Cojuangco, P. Cojuangco, M. Jaworski, A. Leviste, showjumping (main, 2nd rd, individual, 2nd qualifier)

Karatedo
9 to 11 a.m.—E. Halili vs C. Ho, Hong Kong, men's 60kg, first rd, R. Mariano II vs R. Maharjan, Nepal, men's 70kg 1st rd; J. Perania vs N. Almutairik, Kuwait, men's 65kg 1st rd

Taekwondo
M. Rivero Jr. vs A Al-Asma, Jordan, men's bantamweight, 1st rd; D. Simpao vs M. Am, Pakistan, men's middleweight, 1st rd, S. Solis vs Z. Chen, China, women's middleweight, semifinal rd

Wushu
1 to 3:30 pm—L. So, women's taijiquan (finals); B. Co, men's taijiquan
4 to 5:40 pm—M. Sicomen, 53 kg; R. Nganhayna, 56 kg; J. Pasiwat, 60 kg; E. Polayang, 65kg, sanshou (semi, depending on preliminary results)

Asiad volunteer dies

BUSAN, South Korea—An Asian Games volunteer who had been working 10-hour shifts at the main stadium has died from a cerebral hemorrhage, Games officials said Friday.

Oh In-su, 43, had been complaining of tiredness. She collapsed while having dinner with her husband on Tuesday and died the next day in the intensive care unit of a local hospital. *AP*

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM 4 GOLD

Medal-less nations

BUSAN, South Korea—With four days left in the Asian Games, nine of the 44 competing nations and regions have no medals.

Palestine also was not listed in the medal standings, but was guaranteed a medal in boxing. Light heavyweight Monir Abukeshek has reached the semifinals and will receive at least a bronze.

Those without medals were war-ravaged Afghanistan, newly independent East Timor, the Maldives, Macau, Brunei, Oman, Cambodia, Laos and Bhutan.

As of Thursday, China had 127 of the 327 gold medals awarded, and 248 of the 997 medals of all colors. Gold medals remained to be decided in 100 events.

***

Japanese runner Yoshiko Ichikawa won the bronze medal in the women's 1,500 meters despite losing her shoes during the race. Ichikawa lost both shoes after a runner from behind stepped on her heel. She ran shoeless over the final 250 meters and crossed the finish line in 4 minutes, 13.42 seconds to claim Japan's first bronze in the women's 1,500 since the 1970 games in Bangkok.

India's Sunita Rani set a meet record of 4:06.03 to capture gold while Tatiana Borisova of Kazakhstan took silver.

***

For 4,700 athletes at the Asian Games, the competition never ends. They struggle over 40 telephones and 48 computers at the Athletes Village.

"There are only a few phones available and there are always people on them," Iranian judo competitor Masoud Hadl Akhondzadeh told organizers. "I have to wait for a very long time to use the computer to e-mail."

Their living quarters do not have phones or computers. Athletes usually wait from 15 minutes to an hour to use a computer.

Cho Tiput from China said it's like a "sport" to see who can rush to the next open terminal.

***

Buddhist monks performed a centuries-old ritual to pray for the success of the Asian Games on Friday.

In the past, the "Yeongsanjae" ritual, which includes monks dancing and chanting, had been performed during national crises.

It's now done mostly for wishing success in national events. It was performed ahead of the 1988 Olympics and the 2002 soccer World Cup.

"The ceremony here in Busan takes on even greater significance with a delegation from North Korea participating in the games," said Park In-gong, head of the Yeongsanjae Preservation Association.

As part of a broader political agreement, the North sent 184 athletes and a cheer group of about 300 to the Asian Games in Busan.

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RP 5 battles South Korea today

Uichico's boys denied the chance to sample new venue for games

UICHICO

GAMES TODAY
3 p.m.-RP vs South Korea
7 p.m.-China vs Kazakhstan

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea-The Philippine quintet battles South Korea today hoping to pull out a miracle of a win in the 14th Asian Games here.

The Filipinos enter the game set to start at 3 p.m. as the underdogs in the wake of South Korea's overwhelming victories on their way to this match that will determine China's opponent for the gold on Monday.

"The boys are ready," said coach Jong Uichico. "Our game plan is all set. We won't bite their shooting game and up and down style of play."

Uichico's boys have been fully recovered from their shock 92-51 massacre at the hands of China last Tuesday when they went back to the gym yesterday to devise their battle plan against the Koreans.

But the Filipinos were denied yesterday the chance to sample the new venue for the semifinals when organizers refused Uichico's request for his wards to practice at the Busan National University Education Gymnasium.

The eliminations and the quarterfinals were held at the Geumjeong Gymnasium at the outskirts of the city.

"Nagulat nga ako (I was surprised)," said Uichico. "Pero talagang ganoon, e. Kalaban tayo (But that's the way things are here. We are their opponents)."

China will go through the formalities of barging into the finals when it meets Kazakhstan at 7 tonight.

The Kazakhs, like the other teams previous to them, are hoping against hope they would upset the Chinese, the champions since they captured their first basketball Asiad crown in the 1986 Seoul Asian Games.

"South Korea has always been known to have good shooters," said Uichico. "Their running game is good and we don't want to fall into their style."

He emphasized that defense will be his boys' main weapon today.

"We must out-defend them or we won't have a chance at all," he said. "And to be able to do that, we should deny their shooters a chance to hold the ball."

The Koreans have a history of beating the Filipinos in Asiad basketball, the last time was in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad where Korea routed the Philippines, 103-83, in the semifinals.

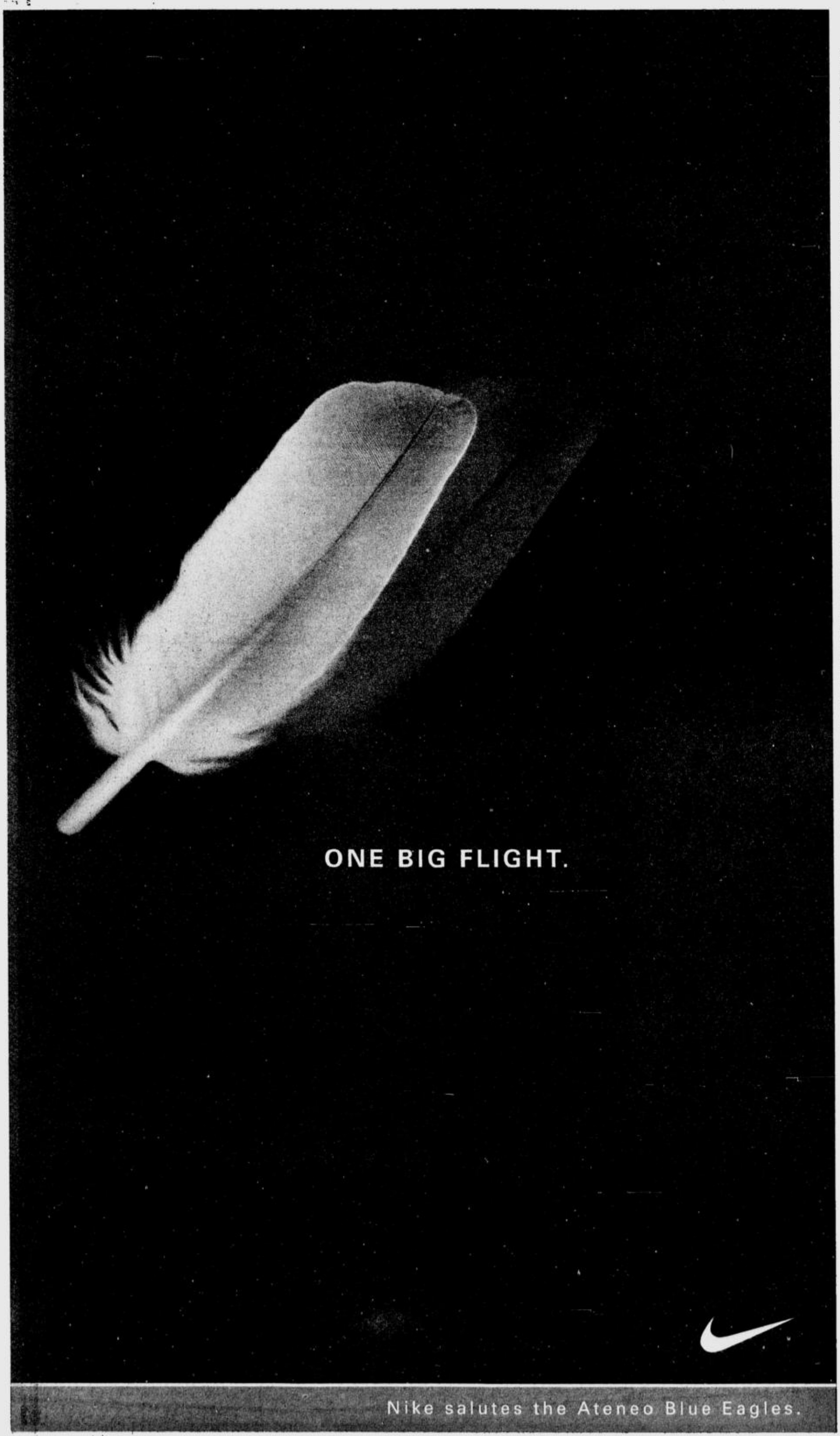
That win advanced the Koreans to the finals where they lost to China, with the Philippines relegated to a battle for the bronze against Kazakhstan.

A return bout with Kazakhstan for the bronze will ensue should the Filipinos bow to the Koreans today. The battle for the bronze will be tomorrow while the clash for the gold will be on Monday.

"Korea's shooters are really deadly and the most that we can do is minimize their points," said Uichico. "Also, they are good at producing transition points that's why I keep telling the boys to stay glued to their men, execute the defense that will deny the shooters a chance to even see the ball being passed to them."

The Philippines beat Kazakhstan for the bronze in Bangkok, 73-68, behind Jojo Lastimosa's late-game heroics wherein he scored the country's last 10 points.

China retained the title by blasting South Korea, 112-92, in the finals.



SPORTSWATCH

Hingis out of Top 10

FILDERSTADT, Germany--Martina Hingis will drop out of the world's top 10 for the first time in six years next week after losing, 6-3, 6-1, to Elena Dementieva in the second round of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix on Thursday. The four-time champion -- last ranked outside the top 10 in September 1996 -- was unable to respond adequately to the power of her Russian opponent. Fourth seeded Belgian Justine Henin also exited, losing, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 to Swiss qualifier Myriam Casanova. There was defeat too for Jelena Dokic who continued to pay the price for a heavy schedule as she was beaten, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, by Tatiana Panova of Russia. The third seeded Yugoslav was playing her 73rd singles match this year. ***Reuters***

Kuerten to q'finals

LYON, France--Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten outlasted Switzerland's Marc Rosset 7-6(5), 7-6(5) on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Lyon Grand Prix, where he will meet Russian star Marat Safin. Kuerten, who has been hampered by injury for much of the season, is seeking only his second title this year, and his 18th career win. Safin is the top-seeded player at Lyon, but only reached the quarterfinals after saving two match points against Wayne Arthurs on Wednesday. Safin's Davis Cup teammate Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded second here, was eliminated 7-6(5), 6-4 on Thursday by Nicolas Escude of France. Escude's countryman Sebastien Grosjean also advanced, easily beating Andre Sa of Brazil 6-0, 6-1 to set up a quarterfinal clash against Arnaud Clement. ***AP***

Schumacher fastest

SUZUKA, Japan--Five-time Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher posted the fastest time Friday in the first practice for the Japanese Grand Prix with Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello second. On a partly-cloudy day Schumacher's Ferrari timed 1 minute 36.109 seconds over the 5.821km (3.6177-mile) Suzuka circuit There were further practice sessions later Friday and Saturday morning. Qualifying is Saturday afternoon for Sunday's 53-lap race. The McLarens of David Coulthard and Kimi Raikkonen were next. Coulthard was timed in 1:36.760 and Raikkonen 1:37.268. They were followed by the Williams duo of Juan Pablo Montoya, 1:37.316, and Ralf Schumacher, 1:37.614. ***AP***

Brazil spikers in

CORDOBA, Argentina--Brazil beat reigning Olympic champion Yugoslavia 3-1 to reach the finals of the men's World Volleyball Championship. The Brazilians, unleashing a powerful offensive, prevailed 26-24, 22-25, 27-25, 26-24 on Thursday at the packed Orfeo sports center in Cordoba, Brazil faces the winner of Friday's semifinal in Buenos Aires between France and Russia. The championship match takes place Saturday. In securing its spot in the final, Brazil beat world and Olympic champions Italy and Yugoslavia. In an earlier match Thursday in Cordoba, Italy beat Portugal 25-23, 25-19, 25-17 in the consolation round. ***AP***

Howell, Furyk lead

LAS VEGAS--Charles Howell III, playing with the confidence of a first-time winner, got in with a 7-under 65 before the wind started to blow Thursday and tied three-time champion Jim Furyk for the second-round lead in the Invensys Classic at Las Vegas. Both Howell and Furyk took advantage of early tee times before afternoon winds picked up to set the pace at 12 under after two rounds of the 90-hole tournament played at three courses. Howell, coming off his first win last week at the Michelob Championship, got to 12 under with an eagle on No. 13, then parred the rest of the way as the wind began to pick up in the desert. "Now that I've won a tournament I'm probably a little more relaxed," Howell said. "That's probably the No. 1 thing. I'm just more relaxed." ***AP***

Koch ahead by 3

MOBILE, Alabama--Sweden's Carin Koch shot a 10-under-par 62 on rain-softened greens Thursday to take a three-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGA Tournament of Champions. Annika Sorenstam, planning to play the final five events of the season in a bid to break Mickey Wright's LPGA Tour record of 13 victories in a season, had a 66, while Nancy Lopez shot a 68 in her final event as a tour regular. Koch, the Swede who was undefeated in the recent Solheim Cup matches, had the lowest round of her career, but it won't count as a course or tournament record because players were allowed to use preferred lies through the fairway. Defending champion Se Ri Pak opened with a 65. She is 30 under for her last six rounds on the Magnolia Grove Golf Club's Crossings Course. ***AP***

Pinoy jins nail down bronzes

By Roy Luarca

Taekwondo

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino taekwondo-jins Tshomkee Go, Daleen Cordero and Veronica Domingo ran smack into Korean opponents in the semifinals yesterday and settled for bronzes in the 14th Asian Games here.

Go and Cordero fought their way for the bronze while Domingo took hers via the luck of the draw.

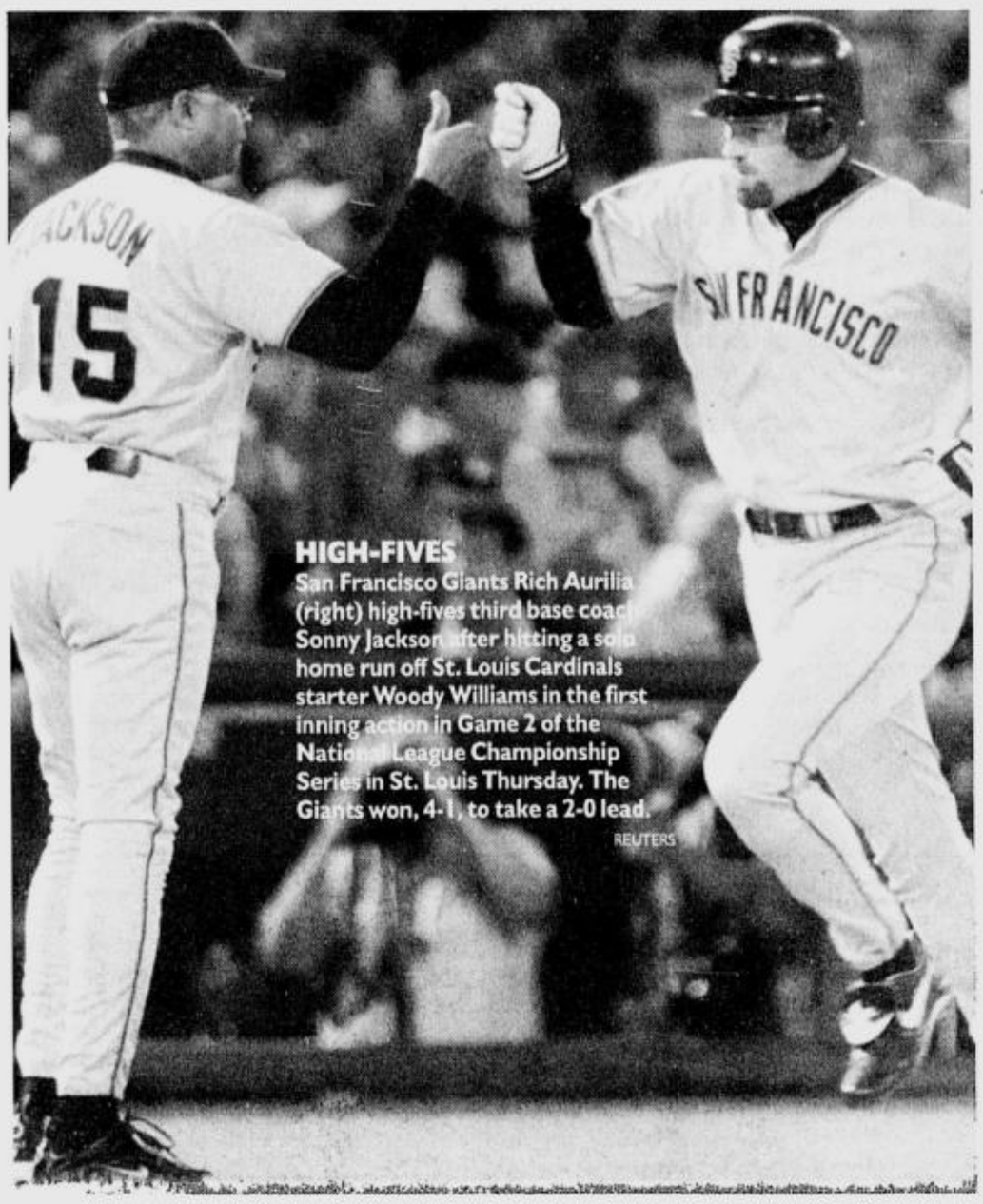
The 21-year-old Go, an Asiad rookie, fell to Kim Dae Ryung, 1-6, after he had posted victories over Tajikistan's Fayziev Firuz (10-1), Cambodia's Cheat Kemara (6-0) and Chinese-Taipei's Huang Ching Feng (referee-stopped-contest) as he led 3-0 in the third round.

Cordero, also an Asiad first timer, thumped Bhutan's Tshom Tandin (5-0) in the first round, then won by superiority over Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Xuan Mni after they had fought to a 3-3 tie.

She, however, proved no match to Korea's Lim Su Kung, who coasted to a 5-0 triumph.

Domingo was humbled by Kim Su Ok, the referee stopping the bout with the Korean ahead, 15-2.

With their bronzes, Cordero and Domingo stand to receive P150,000 each in incentives, P50,000 coming from Samsung and the rest from the government.



HIGH-FIVES San Francisco Giants Rich Aurilia (right) high-fives third base coach Sonny Jackson after hitting a solo home run off St. Louis Cardinals starter Woody Williams in the first inning action in Game 2 of the National League Championship Series in St. Louis Thursday. The Giants won, 4-1, to take a 2-0 lead. REUTERS

'Race for Life' events get under way today

THE five-day CSFI "Race for Life" enters its penultimate leg with back-to-back stakes races and top-money special invitational races on tap at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Organized by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI), in cooperation with the Manila Jockey Club Inc., the racing fund-raiser was made possible through the support of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company and Smart Communications.

Main races today are the House of Representatives Cup and the Congressional Spouses' Foundation Cup, 1,425-meter events that carry an added prize of P200,000.00 each.

Competing in the House of Representatives Cup are six up-and-coming 2-year-old fillies led by recent stakes winners Speed Machine and Shining Pyramid, as well as Tatler Cover, strong runner-up in the previous stakes outings.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Qualifying - Japanese Grand Prix, 12 noon and 7 p.m., Star Sports
GOLF: LPGA Safeway Classic, 4 p.m., Star Sports
BILLIARDS: Asian 8-Ball Championships 2002, 1 p.m., Star Sports
World Pool Trick Shot Masters 2001, 4 p.m. (r), ESPN
2002 WPBA Classic Tour, 6 p.m., ESPN
BADMINTON: 2002 Indonesian Open, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., Star Sports
BOWLING: PWBA, 11 a.m., ESPN
BASEBALL: MLB AL Championship Series Game #3, 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY In 1991, University of Mindanao-Tagum beat Nabunturan Municipal High, 1-0, to bag the Coke-Go For Goal title at the Tagum Pilot School in Davao del Norte. Also today in 1992, Paeng Nepomuceno struck 2039 pins while Bong Coo-Garcia rolled 1913 pins to win the 16th Kuala Lumpur International Open Masters plum at the Mirama Bowl.

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SAMSUNG GOLF

Digitall Challenge boosts amateurs

ADDING yet a new dimension to its massive support for local sports, Samsung shifts its focus to the greens and fairways as it launched the Samsung Golf Digitall Challenge that should keep local amateurs swinging competitively for the next six months.

It will be a three-in-one extravaganza that will bring amateurs of all ages and both sexes together in Metro Manila's public and private courses as well as Cebu and culminating in a grand showdown of qualifiers.

The Samsung Amateur Tour and the Samsung Putting Challenge will be intertwined over a six-month period starting late this month

The Amateur Tour will have stops at the Eagle Ridge Golf (Nov. 14-15), the Cebu Country Club (Dec. 5-6), Tagaytay Midlands (Jan. 9-10) and Mt. Malarayat (Feb. 6-7) while the Putting Challenge visits Aguinaldo (Oct. 26-27), Canlubang (Nov. 9-10), Riviera (Nov. 23-24), Cebu (Dec.7-8), Villamor (Dec. 14-15), Orchard (Jan. 4-5) and Wack Wack (Jan. 18-19).

Samsung is also giving age-group golf the much-needed shot in the arm with its move to revive the Interscholastics in February where top schools from elementary to college will be invited to participate.

"There is now a renewed enthusiasm toward golf in the local scene from junior golfers to ladies, amateurs as well as the seniors. It is for us to keep the intensity, get them to enjoy the game more and in the long-term, help in building a breeding ground for good players," said Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

The Professional Sports Management Group headed by Boy Blue Ocampo will handle the series for Samsung. Ocampo said that several companies like adidas Taylor Made, Gatorade, Custom Clubmakers and Hotshots are coming in as co-sponsors.

Samsung is also an active supporter of the Philippine Basketball Association and other sports of growing national interest like taekwondo. It's crucial support for the Philippine delegation to the still ongoing Asian Games in Busan, Korea.

The Putting Challenge will be an open public competition during weekends where players will be made to compete for slots to the grand finals. Prizes will be at stake.

The same goes with the Amateur Tour which will be a series of 36-hole tournaments in various handicap classifications culminating in a national competition.

Slayers shine

THE SOCCER Slayers beat the Alabang Knights Futbol Club in penalty shootout, 1-0, to capture the first-ever Pinoy Kids Super Cup recently.

Rafa, the Slayers' steel-nerved rearguard, scored the goal in the shootout, ending a tight contest that saw both squads disputing the crown in five games (0-2, 1-1, 0-0, 0-0, and 1-0).

"The match could have gone either way but our players showed more courage and character," said Slayers coach Luis Casal.

With the Slayers on top in the fifth game, 1-0, the Knights, led by Mateo, Ayrton and Juval, tried to tie the match in regulation but failed to pierce the Slayers' internal defense.

RP entries 4th

THE PHILIPPINES, aiming at qualifying for the World Cup for the second straight year, kept up its chase with a bogey-free 68 yesterday to stay in fourth place in the Davidoff Nations Cup in Johor Baru, Malaysia.

Marciano Pucay gave his partner Danny Zarate all the needed boost in the alternate shots format where they birdied three of the four par fives and remained within sight of the leaders with a 132 total after a 64 in Thursday's fourballs.

"Marciano played some amazing shots," said Zarate, who partnered Rodrigo Cuello last year.

4th 'King' 10K slated Nov. 3

AFTER a year's absence from the local running scene, adidas Philippines revives its involvement in marathon by staging the 4th edition of the King of the Road 10K run at the Global City inside Fort Bonifacio on Nov. 3.

"The event is again expected to attract thousands of runners as the overall winner will represent the country in the annual adidas King of the Road 10K Run in Hong Kong.

Also, this year will see a number of different categories in the race, highlighted by the open division where the country's top runners will vie for the Hong Kong trip prize and an executive division for individuals whose annual gross income is P500,000 or more. There will also be four age groups for both men and women, ensuring a balanced competition.

"The junior age group will cover runners from 14-19 years old, a separate group for runners aged 20 to 29 years old, another group for those 30-39 years old, and for veterans 40 years and above," said to adidas marketing director Angelica Suiza.

Registration center is at Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 351 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan, while entry forms are available at all adidas Shops and outlets in Metro Manila.

Little Olympics Manila leg on

AFTER the success of its three legs held respectively in Lingayen, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu, the 12th Milo Little Olympics, an interschool sports competition for elementary and high school students, will culminate in the Manila leg starting today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Games in 11 sports events are also scheduled on Oct. 13, 19 and 20.

This year's Milo Little Olympics boasts of competitions in badminton, gymnastics, lawn tennis, chess, table tennis, taekwondo, athletics, swimming, football, volleyball and sepak takraw.

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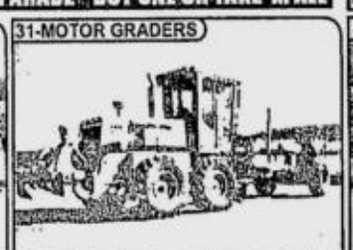

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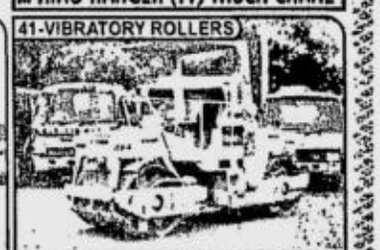

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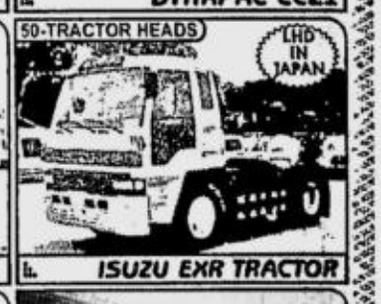

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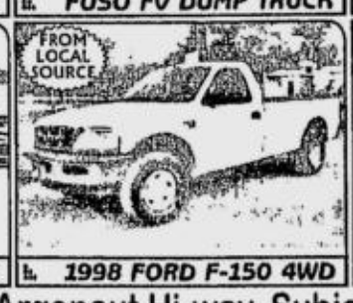

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Pinoy jins nail down bronzes

By Roy Luarca

Taekwondo

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino taekwondo-jins Tshomkee Go, Daleen Cordero and Veronica Domingo ran smack into Korean opponents in the semifinals yesterday and settled for bronzes in the 14th Asian Games here.

Go and Cordero fought their way for the bronze while Domingo took hers via the luck of the draw.

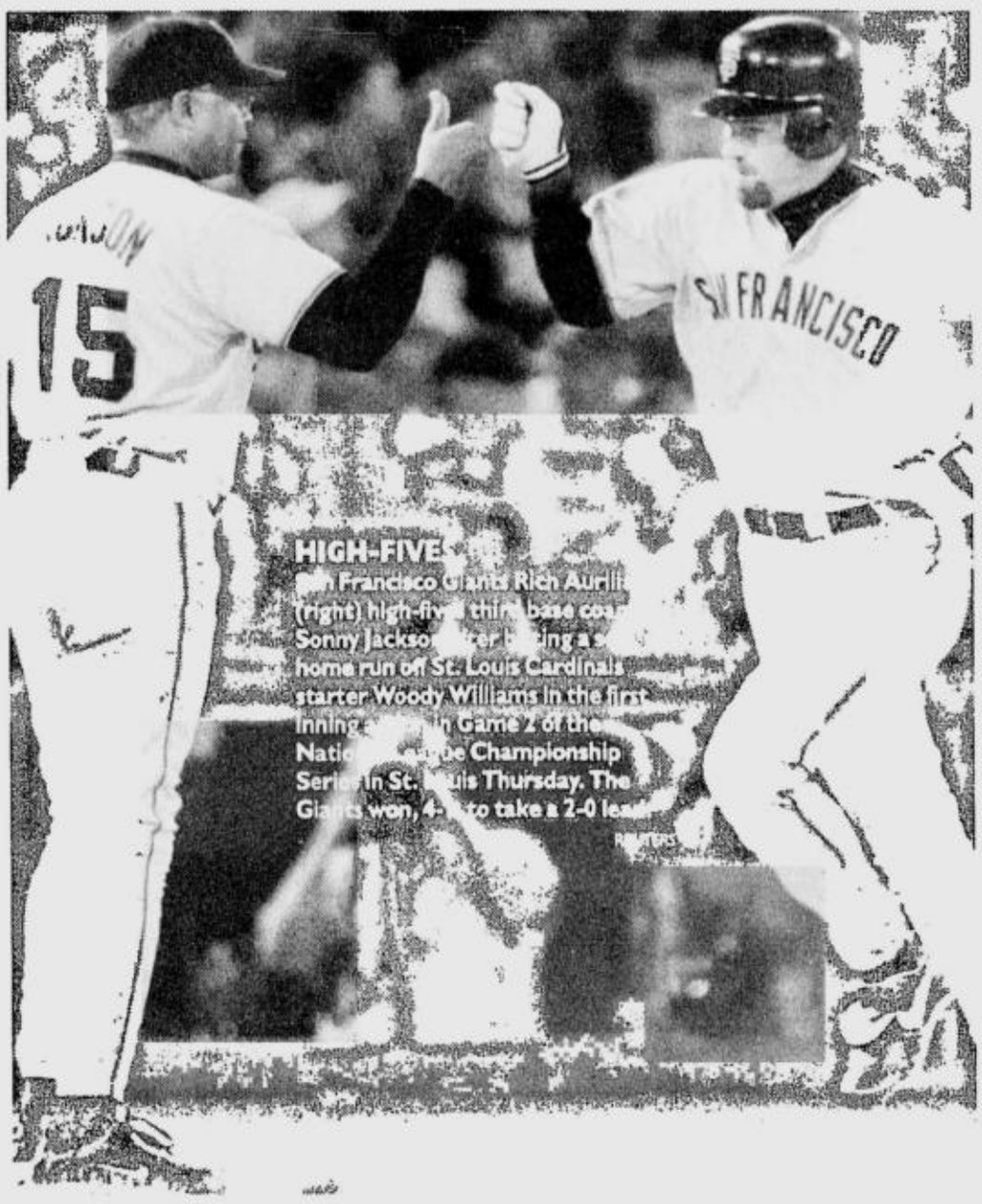
The 21-year-old Go, an Asiad rookie, fell to Kim Dae Ryung, 1-6, after he had posted victories over Tajikistan's Fayziev Firuz (10-1), Cambodia's Cheat Kemara (6-0) and Chinese-Taipei's Huang Ching Feng (referee-stopped-contest) as he led 3-0 in the third round.

Cordero, also an Asiad first timer, thumped Bhutan's Tshom Tandin (5-0) in the first round, then won by superiority over Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Xuan Mni after they had fought to a 3-3 tie.

She, however, proved no match to Korea's Lim Su Kung, who coasted to a 5-0 triumph.

Domingo was humbled by Kim Su Ok, the referee stopping the bout with the Korean ahead, 15-2.

With their bronzes, Cordero and Domingo stand to receive P150,000 each in incentives, P50,000 coming from Samsung and the rest from the government.



HIGH-FIVE ... Francisco Giants Rich Aurili (right) high-fives third base coach Sonny Jackson after hitting a 3-run home run off St. Louis Cardinals starter Woody Williams in the first inning ... Game 2 of the National League Championship Series in St. Louis Thursday. The Giants won, 4-... to take a 2-0 lead. REUTERS

'Race for Life' events get under way today

THE five-day CSFI "Race for Life" enters its penultimate leg with back-to-back stakes races and top-money special invitational races on tap at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Organized by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI), in cooperation with the Manila Jockey Club Inc., the racing fund-raiser was made possible through the support of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company and Smart Communications.

Main races today are the House of Representatives Cup and the Congressional Spouses' Foundation Cup, 1,425-meter events that carry an added prize of P200,000.00 each.

Competing in the House of Representatives Cup are six up-and-coming 2-year-old fillies led by recent stakes winners Speed Machine and Shining Pyramid, as well as Tatler Cover, strong runner-up in the previous stakes outings.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Qualifying - Japanese Grand Prix, 12 noon and 7 p.m., Star Sports
GOLF: LPGA Safeway Classic, 4 p.m., Star Sports
BILLIARDS: Asian 8-Ball Championships 2002, 1 p.m., Star Sports
World Pool Trick Shot Masters 2001, 4 p.m. (r), ESPN
2002 WPBA Classic Tour, 6 p.m., ESPN
BADMINTON: 2002 Indonesian Open, 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., Star Sports
BOWLING: PWBA, 11 a.m., ESPN
BASEBALL: MLB AL Championship Series Game #3, 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, University of Mindanao-Tagum beat Nabunturan Municipal High, 1-0, to bag the Coke-Go For Goal title at the Tagum Pilot School in Davao del Norte. Also today in 1992, Paeng Nepomuceno struck 2039 pins while Bong Coo-Garcia rolled 1913 pins to win the 16th Kuala Lumpur International Open Masters plum at the Mirama Bowl.

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SAMSUNG GOLF

Digitall Challenge boosts amateurs

ADDING yet a new dimension to its massive support for local sports, Samsung shifts its focus to the greens and fairways as it launched the Samsung Golf Digitall Challenge that should keep local amateurs swinging competitively for the next six months.

It will be a three-in-one extravaganza that will bring amateurs of all ages and both sexes together in Metro Manila's public and private courses as well as Cebu and culminating in a grand showdown of qualifiers.

The Samsung Amateur Tour and the Samsung Putting Challenge will be intertwined over a six-month period starting late this month

The Amateur Tour will have stops at the Eagle Ridge Golf (Nov. 14-15), the Cebu Country Club (Dec. 5-6), Tagaytay Midlands (Jan. 9-10) and Mt. Malarayat (Feb. 6-7) while the Putting Challenge visits Aguinaldo (Oct. 26-27), Canlubang (Nov. 9-10), Riviera (Nov. 23-24), Cebu (Dec.7-8), Villamor (Dec. 14-15), Orchard (Jan. 4-5) and Wack Wack (Jan. 18-19).

Samsung is also giving age-group golf the much-needed shot in the arm with its move to revive the Interscholastics in February where top schools from elementary to college will be invited to participate.

"There is now a renewed enthusiasm toward golf in the local scene from junior golfers to ladies, amateurs as well as the seniors. It is for us to keep the intensity, get them to enjoy the game more and in the long-term, help in building a breeding ground for good players," said Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

The Professional Sports Management Group headed by Boy Blue Ocampo will handle the series for Samsung. Ocampo said that several companies like adidas Taylor Made, Gatorade, Custom Clubmakers and Hotshots are coming in as co-sponsors.

Samsung is also an active supporter of the Philippine Basketball Association and other sports of growing national interest like taekwondo. It's crucial support for the Philippine delegation to the still ongoing Asian Games in Busan, Korea.

The Putting Challenge will be an open public competition during weekends where players will be made to compete for slots to the grand finals. Prizes will be at stake.

The same goes with the Amateur Tour which will be a series of 36-hole tournaments in various handicap classifications culminating in a national competition.

Slayers shine

THE SOCCER Slayers beat the Alabang Knights Futbol Club in penalty shootout, 1-0, to capture the first-ever Pinoy Kids Super Cup recently.

Rafa, the Slayers' steel-nerved rearguard, scored the goal in the shootout, ending a tight contest that saw both squads disputing the crown in five games (0-2, 1-1, 0-0, 0-0, and 1-0).

"The match could have gone either way but our players showed more courage and character," said Slayers coach Luis Casal.

With the Slayers on top in the fifth game, 1-0, the Knights, led by Mateo, Ayrton and Juval, tried to tie the match in regulation but failed to pierce the Slayers' internal defense.

RP entries 4th

THE PHILIPPINES, aiming at qualifying for the World Cup for the second straight year, kept up its chase with a bogey-free 68 yesterday to stay in fourth place in the Davidoff Nations Cup in Johor Baru, Malaysia.

Marciano Pucay gave his partner Danny Zarate all the needed boost in the alternate shots format where they birdied three of the four par fives and remained within sight of the leaders with a 132 total after a 64 in Thursday's fourballs.

"Marciano played some amazing shots," said Zarate, who partnered Rodrigo Cuello last year.

4th 'King' 10K slated Nov. 3

AFTER a year's absence from the local running scene, adidas Philippines revives its involvement in marathon by staging the 4th edition of the King of the Road 10K run at the Global City inside Fort Bonifacio on Nov. 3.

The event is again expected to attract thousands of runners as the overall winner will represent the country in the annual adidas King of the Road 10K Run in Hong Kong.

Also, this year will see a number of different categories in the race, highlighted by the open division where the country's top runners will vie for the Hong Kong trip prize and an executive division for individuals whose annual gross income is P500,000 or more. There will also be four age groups for both men and women, ensuring a balanced competition.

"The junior age group will cover runners from 14-19 years old, a separate group for runners aged 20 to 29 years old, another group for those 30-39 years old, and for veterans 40 years and above," said to adidas marketing director Angelica Suiza.

Registration center is at Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 351 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan, while entry forms are available at all adidas Shops and outlets in Metro Manila.

Little Olympics Manila leg on

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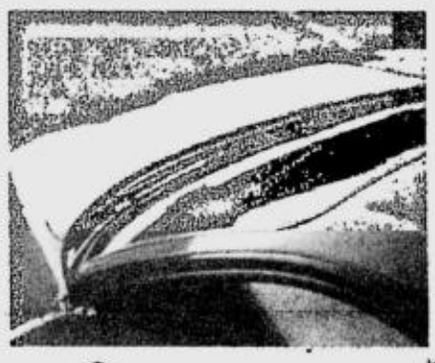

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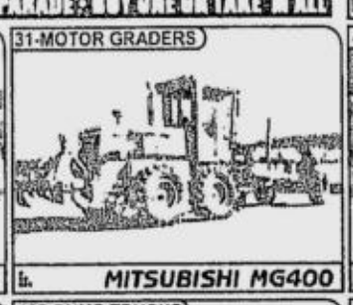
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1x DYNAPAC CC21

44-REEFER VANS
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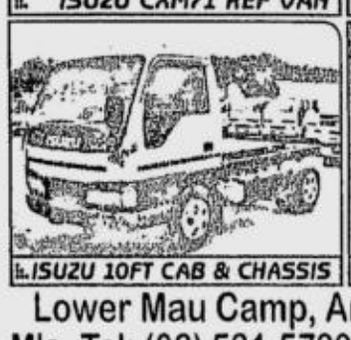
107-DUMP TRUCKS
1x FUSO FV DUMP TRUCK

50-TRACTOR HEADS
1x ISUZU EXR TRACTOR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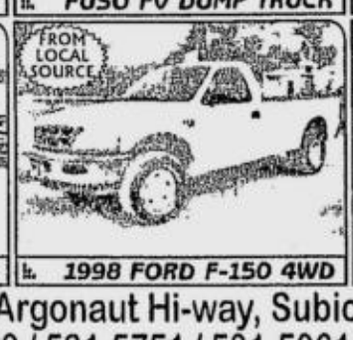

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ASIAD ROUNDUP

Martina's partner steals show

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—She no longer is just Martina Navratilova's doubles partner. Iroda Tulyaganova won an Asian Games tennis gold medal Friday, a day when most medals were being decided in combat sports.

Tulyaganova gave Uzbekistan its eighth gold of the games by upsetting top-seeded Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 6-1, 6-3, and said later that Navratilova had helped with her game.

The former world No. 1 men's doubles pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, back together to win gold for India, did it by beating South Korea's Chung Hee-seok and Lee Hyung-taik 6-2, 6-3.

The games' overall leader, China, lifted its total to 128 gold medals when its women's field hockey team beat four-time gold medalist South Korea 2-1.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

The Chinese gained a hotly disputed key goal when the umpire penalized South Korean goalkeeper Park Yong-sook for shuffling her feet during a penalty flick attempt by China's Fu Baorong.

Japan won the bronze with a 2-0 victory over India.

Tulyaganova called her gold medal match "one of my best victories because it was for my country, not for myself."

She played doubles with Navratilova at the US Open, where they lost in the third round, and said the two plan to play together for the rest of the year.

"My weapon is my serve," Tulyaganova said. "Tammy is a very good player but I didn't give her a chance to play."

In the WTA rankings, Tamarine is 27th and Tulyaganova 40th.

Paes and Bhupathi needed four match points to win. The clincher was a backhand by Bhupathi that skipped off the net cord and over the Koreans' rackets.

In boxing, semifinals in six weight classes sent four men from Kazakhstan, three from Pakistan, two each from Thailand and Uzbekistan and one from South Korea into gold medal matches.

The lineup for Saturday's six semifinals includes six from South Korea, five from Uzbekistan, three from Kazakhstan, two each from Thailand, Pakistan and Tajikistan, and one each from Syria, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines.

TULYAGANOVA jubilates. AFP

It's like driving a Ferrari [illegible] the Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. W[illegible], you don't need to instal[illegible]em to get a dedicated co[illegible] uses the copper wires [illegible]our telephone. DSL technolog[illegible] Subscriber Line) carries data a[illegible]ency than voice or fax calls, [illegible] simultaneously be carried in one [illegible]sn't interfere with other telepho[illegible] Caller ID or call waiting. And [illegible]ble-based systems (essentially [illegible]work where the connection to [illegible] shared), it doesn't fall in perfor[illegible]nore subscribers connect and d[illegible] security problems arising from p[illegible]ffing.

You'll be hook[illegible]

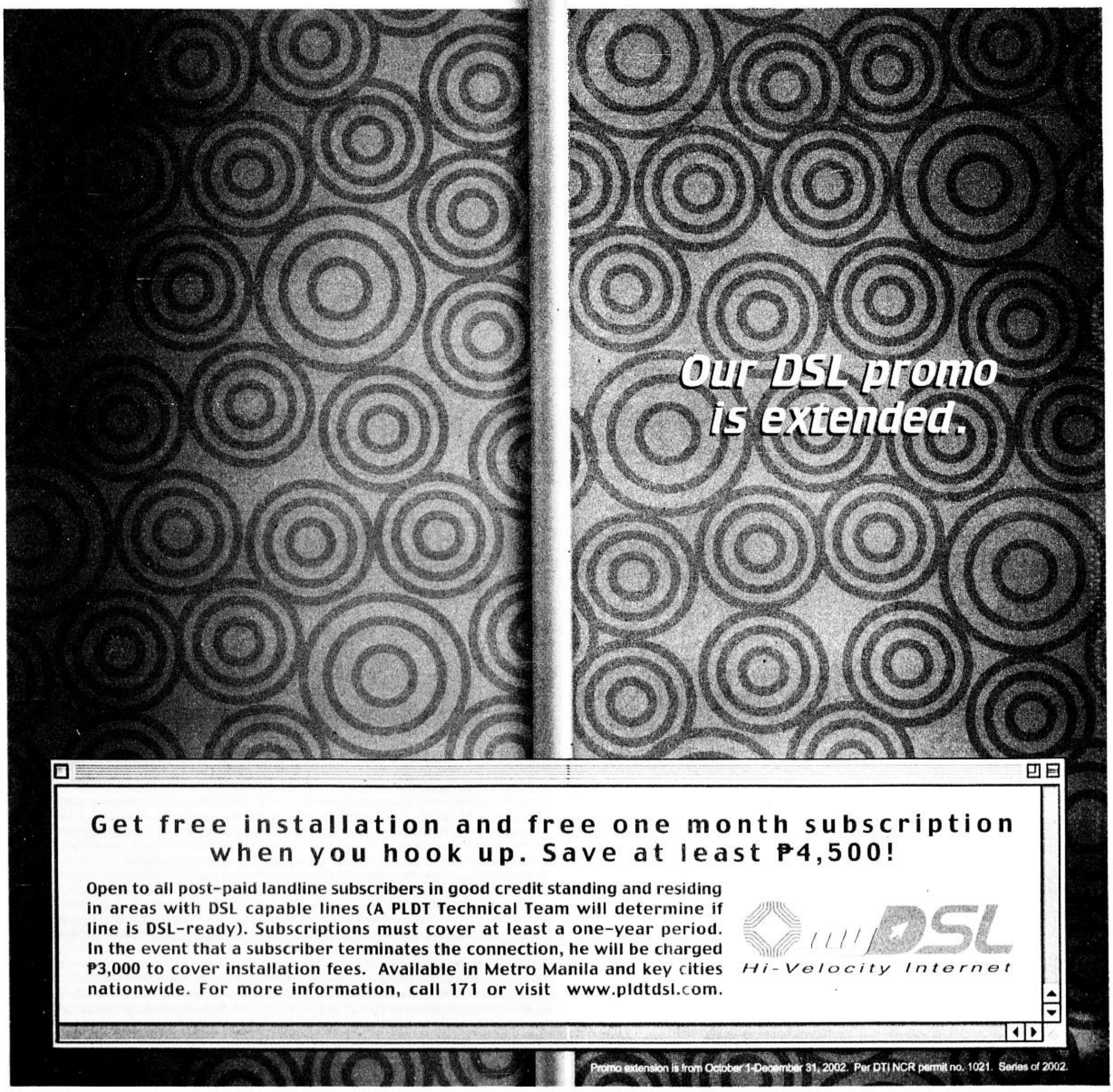
So if you have[illegible] myDSL connection, there's no stoppi[illegible]m hosting your own website. If you [illegible]ganization in school or the commun[illegible]n play your school's victory song [illegible]ming and video audio(skipping [illegible]so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Robotto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

Get PLDT myDSL and save at least P4,500!

With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.



■ Chinese-Filipino man abducted in Pasig City /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Atienza chides renegade barangay chairmen /A25

■ ON TARGET: PNP chief Ebdane was misquoted /A26

Oust Fernando!

By Christian V. Esguerra and Agnes E. Donato

FERNANDO

URBAN POOR and vendors groups yesterday launched a signature campaign seeking the ouster of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

"The signature campaign is an expression of our will and determination to oppose any government policy that harms us," said Vener Alpapara, president of the Ugnayang Lakas ng mga Nakatira sa Tabing-Ilog Pasig.

The MMDA chair has been at odds with the vendors for his clearing operations on sidewalks of Metro Manila, demolishing illegal stalls and other obstructions. Fernando has also gotten the ire of squatters after he started demolishing their shanties, particularly on the banks of Pasig River to give way to the MMDA's flood control projects.

Alpapara said Fernando's move to drive away informal settlers in Pasig contradicts the moratorium on demolitions announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We urge the President to uphold her commitment to a demolition moratorium by firing Fernando who refuses to dialogue with us," the Ulap president said.

No middle ground

Vendors also welcome the oust-Fernando movement because of the MMDA's regular clearing operations.

The militant Sanlakas, which is backing the Metro Manila Vendors Alliance, had earlier said that either Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila or Benhur Abalos of Mandaluyong should take over Fernando's post.

Vendors want Fernando to follow the lead of Atienza and Abalos who have been implementing what they claimed "organized vending system" in their respective cities.

But Fernando, who is credited for turning Marikina into a model city, has consistently rejected the idea, saying there should be no middle ground in the government's campaign to recover sidewalks from vendors and eventually improve traffic.

In Quezon City, where the government-sponsored Gawad Manuel L. Quezon ceremonies were yesterday held with Ms Macapagal as guest speaker, about 500 protestors held their own "awards ceremonies" at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

The Gawad Quezon gives recognition to outstanding political personalities.

But instead of giving a plaque or trophy, members of the Metro Manila Vendors Alliance awarded Ms Macapagal and Fernando a rotten squash to symbolize their condemnation of the President's alleged ill treatment of the poor.

MMVA Chair Pedring Fadrigon said that Ms Macapagal has earned the ire of street vendors because of her tolerance for MMDA chair's alleged "acts of terror."

He cited as an example Fernando's threat to force the vendors to leave the sidewalks by spraying kerosene on their ware.

"A squash each is the most appropriate award for (Macapagal and Fernando), because it is their narrow-mindedness that brought the poor into this kind of desperate situation," Fadrigon said.

He said that the government's inability to alleviate poverty was the main reason the poor resort to sidewalk vending just to earn a living.

The protesters converged at the Quezon Memorial Circle and started the program about 2 p.m. yesterday while they waited for the President's car to pass by the Elliptical Road on her way to the Celebrity Sports Plaza, where the Gawad Manuel L. Quezon awarding ceremony was to be held. Ms Macapagal was invited to be the guest speaker in the ceremony.

Fadrigon said that the vendors' rally was also held to mark the resumption of the MMDA's clearing operations yesterday.

10/11

"10/11 to us Metro Manila vendors is comparable to what 9/11 is to New Yorkers," he said. "Only, it is not suicide bombers, but Chair Fernando himself who is doing the terrorizing.

"We will mark this day because it is the start of our intensified campaign against this heartless terrorist of the poor," he added.

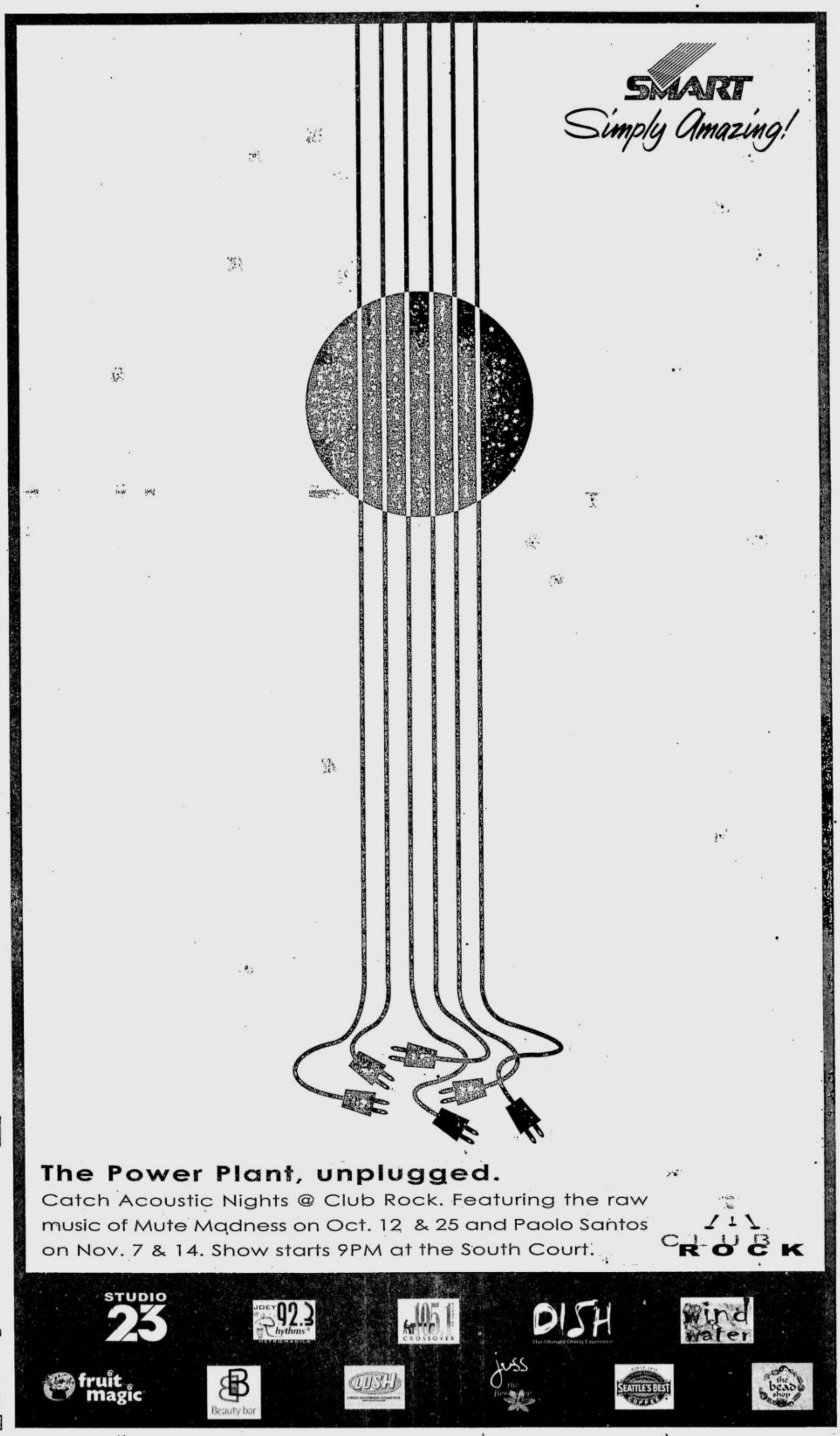
Fernando is expected to intensify the drive against squatters after Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Secretary Michael Defensor asked him on Thursday to lead the dispersal of squatters being used by organized land syndicates.

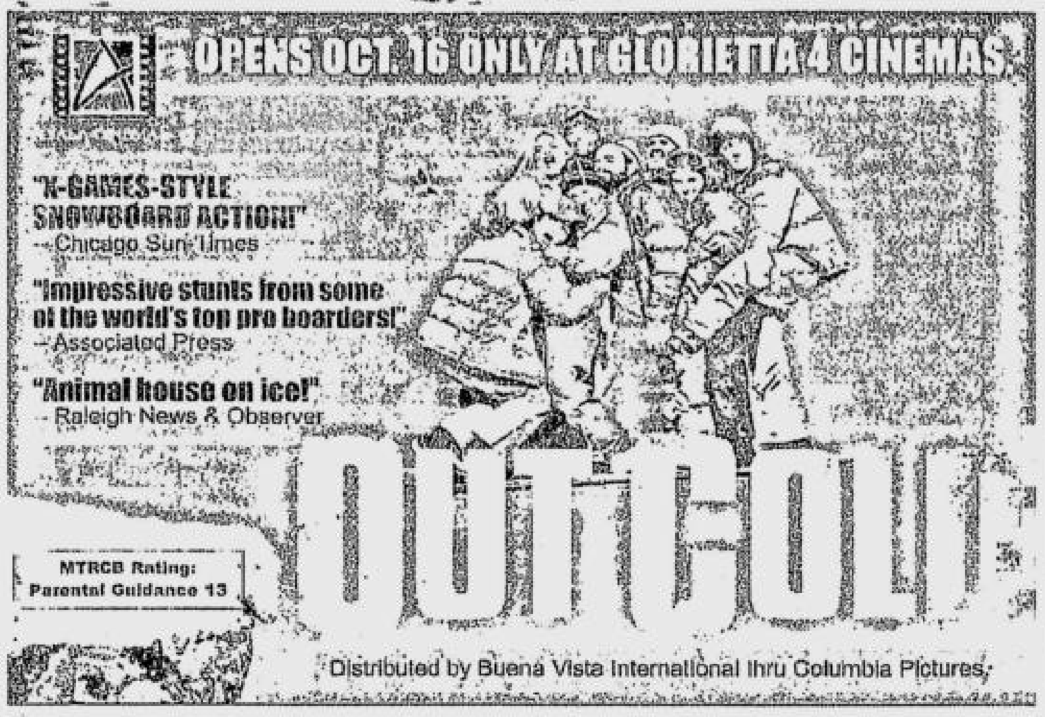
New task

Fernando and Defensor discussed the future of Metro housing during the national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) in Baguio City on Thursday.

Defensor said a government operation would be launched against 21 organized squatting syn-

OUST/ A25





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Atienza chides renegade barangay chairmen

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday belittled the attempt of several "renegade" barangay chairs to stage their own election for league president, who will sit in the City Council.

"Their hard-headed action would be a mere exercise in futility and a waste of time," Atienza told reporters during a news conference.

He also said that he had asked Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina to replace the city's DILG representative for stirring the barangay chairs allied to the former league president, Councilor Natalio Beltran III.

The mayor said Rhodora Licudini caused "confusion and disunity" when she backed the election planned by the renegades on Oct. 21.

"Instead of following the law, she is fomenting disobedience," the mayor added.

Atienza said that the new set of league officials, headed by Councilor Carlos Castaneda, was supported by 95.3 percent of the city's 897 barangay chairs during an election held on Sept. 15.

The Sept. 15 election was conducted under a new set of rules formulated by the City Council.

Instead of being elected at large, the league president would be chosen among themselves by six district league presidents.

Instead of 900 chairs gathering for the election, only six DLPs would actually vote for the city league president.

The DLPs would be elected by the barangay chairs in each of the city's six districts.

Atienza said the new rules are still democratic since each DLP "would surely vote the person whom most chairs in his district favor."

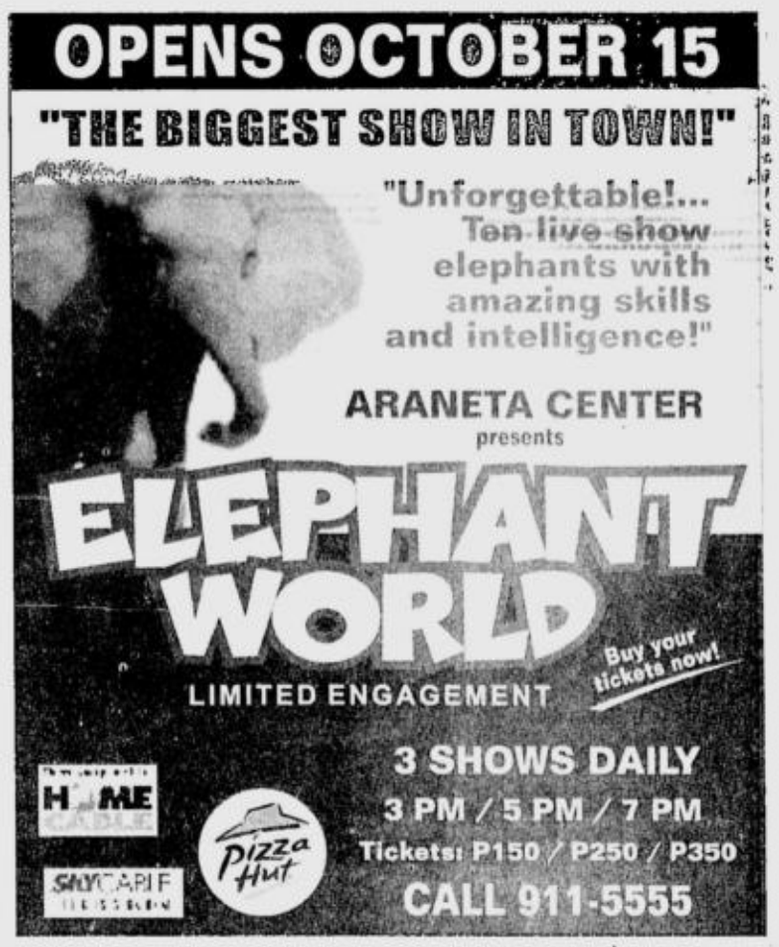
This, however, is not provided in the Council-formulated rule.

Under the old rules, which Atienza described as "lopsided and ineffective," there was "unequal representation" because the elected league officers would often come only from three or four districts.

Atienza said he is now confident that when he speaks to the city barangay league officials, he would be communicating to all barangay officers in all the city's districts.

He said the new rules made coordination between the barangay and the city government "more manageable."

The mayor said the old convention-style of electing the city league president "generally invited corruption" and was "a game for the rich candidates" who use their wealth to get elected.



MMDA pins hopes on garbage facilities

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is pinning his hopes on the metropolis' existing garbage facilities to convince officials of the Quezon province to let the MMDA build a dumpsite in their area.

Fernando yesterday met with officials of the Quezon provincial board, who were set to tour the San Mateo dumpsite, a material recovery facility (MRF) and other garbage facilities of the MMDA.

"We will show them the true condition of Metro Manila's garbage," Fernando told reporters after a meeting with the Quezon provincial board. "We want to give them the assurance that we would not be destroying their environment. We hope they will see Metro Manila's technology and learn that the MMDA has enough experience to handle the garbage."

The MMDA chair added that once the Quezon government approves the use of their area, the MMDA would finish building the garbage facilities in a year.

But Quezon acting Vice Governor Narciso Malite said yesterday that the provincial board would first like to see for themselves what the MMDA's plans are before coming to a decision.

"It's not only us who will be affected by the project, but all the other provinces where the railways would pass through," he said.

The MMDA plans to use existing railways to transport Metro Manila's trash to Southern Luzon.

Malite added that Quezon has an existing ordinance prohibiting the entry of garbage from other areas, although there is a possibility that this could be amended.

At the Kilosbayan forum yesterday, Fernando said that he sees a great improvement in garbage collection in Metro Manila because its 17 cities and municipalities could bring their garbage directly to the railways in their area.

Fernando has earlier said that the area where the dumpsite and MRF for the trash would be built would become more industrialized if the MMDA's plans push through.

He said yesterday that a lot of factories could be set up, including paper recycling company, a scrap or smelting company or a plastics recovery facility, and that the area would earn money from the tipping fee from the different cities and municipalities of Metro Manila.

Oust Fernando!

From page A23

dicates, whose network feeds into several squatting communities in Metro Manila.

He said it would take Fernando to make the operations work.

In his speech before the convention participants, Fernando accepted his "new task" by insisting that his unpopular crusade was not a tool for his supposed aspirations for a national elective position.

In fact, he said, his speech would not even make him popular to real estate brokers.

But laughter frequently broke out as Fernando discussed his concept of "good governance" under President Macapagal's philosophy of "a strong republic."

Good governance, he said, is simply the presence of a government in circumstances where the individual rights conflict with his neighbor's rights.

"We have been talking about many rights," Fernando said. "But you must understand that good governance is how you handle a barking dog. You complain to government about a dog, the government sends someone to talk to your neighbor about reining in the dog. Or the government comes in to kill the dog. That's governance. That's a strong republic," he said in Filipino.

The impact of his crusade to clear Manila streets of sidewalk vendors, illegal structures and now, squatters, would benefit real estate sector tremendously, Fernando said.

He said real estate values often drop when chaos dominates any street-side property.

"What will you do if the area has a naked man on one end, and a band of drunkards gambling along the sidewalk? Of course, economies go down, and businesses slow down. That is why it had been hard for money to trickle down to the poor. It is this face which we show to the world," Fernando said.

The former Marikina mayor claimed that former Singaporean strongman Lee Kwan Yew even gave him sleek advice: "If you need to fool them, make sure you dress business-like."

With reports from Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza

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PNP chief Ebdane was misquoted

A TWO-SEATER Air Force jet crashed into the sea near Little Sta. Cruz island off Zamboanga City recently.

Its mission was to search for a runaway foreign ship loaded with smuggled goods, news reports said.

The plane was dispatched to help the Coast Guard locate the MV Spiros, a Greek ship, which allegedly owed the government close to P10 million in taxes and duties, according to the reports.

* * *

My sources in Zamboanga City told me the inside story on the escape of the 163,000-ton cargo ship and why the plane was dispatched.

The ship landed at the Port of Zamboanga carrying tens of thousands of tons of rice and crude salt from India.

The ship was immediately held by port authorities.

* * *

A Zamboanga customs official allegedly demanded P10 million as "arrangement fee" for the cargo to be unloaded, according to my sources who are also customs insiders.

But the consignee, a certain Nonoy Tan, one of the biggest smugglers in Zamboanga City, couldn't afford to pay the customs official's asking price.

So, when nobody was looking, the ship sailed out to sea with its smuggled cargo.

* * *

The ship went to Cebu where it unloaded the contraband, according to customs sources in Cebu.

The Port of Cebu is another haven for smugglers, the other being the Port of Zamboanga, the sources said. But that's another story.

* * *

Imagine, the government lost a multi-million-dollar

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

fighter-bomber because it was sent to go after a cargo ship which escaped due to the negligence of customs people at the Zamboanga port!

If not for the greed of that customs official, the ship and its illegal cargo could have been seized.

Why doesn't Congress make an inquiry into the incident?

I doubt an inquiry will ever be undertaken because the customs official is under the protective wings of a Zamboanga politician.

* * *

Who's this customs official who bought a lot at the Ayala Hillside Estates, a new upscale village in Quezon City.

The lot cost P25 million. There's no house on it yet.

You know the mode of payment made by the customs official? He paid in cold cash!

* * *

Wow! Where did he get all that money?

You're stupid if you don't know!

Here's a hint on to the identity of the customs official: He's a lawyer who holds office at the South Harbor.

* * *

When even rich people avoid investing in real estate and just keep their money in the bank because of hard times, this customs official buys a very expensive piece of real estate in a millionaires' row. And in cash yet!

Money must be flowing out of the ears of this customs official.

No wonder, many people would sell their souls to the Devil just to be employed at the Bureau of Customs.

* * *

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, was quoted out of context when he said: "Don't trust just any policeman; look for somebody whom you can trust."

What he meant was in special criminal cases, like kidnapping, ordinary cops don't have the expertise to solve them. That's what he told me over the phone Thursday, one day after the controversial news item came out.

Ebdane said that the family of a kidnap victim should report the kidnapping to the Police Anti-Crime Emergency and Response (Pacer) team based in Camp Crame, and not to any other police unit.

* * *

The PNP chief is right. Policemen at the precincts, for example, don't have the knowhow and experience to crack a kidnapping case.

Cops at Pacer are trained to deal with kidnap cases because of their wide experience. Many of the members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), especially non-officers, have been retained at Pacer.

* * *

In the same way, when there's a hostage incident, traffic or beat policemen are not sent because they're not trained to deal with such a situation.

Members of the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) are sent to a hostage incident.

Another special crime that needs special cops is car theft or what is popularly known as "carnapping." Members of the PNP Ancar (anti-carnapping) units have the experience and knowledge to go after car thieves.

Man abducted in Pasig

By Alcuin Papa

THE "TRIED and tested" formula of the Arroyo government and the Philippine National Police against kidnapping will be put to the test after a Chinese-Filipino businessman was abducted early yesterday morning.

Relatives of Antonio Tan, 52, owner of the TTH Hardware in Pasig City, and resident of Maybunga, Pasig, have reportedly refused to cooperate with police regarding the abduction.

In the report of Supt. John Sosito, Pasig police chief, Tan was walking in front of the Saint Claire Funeral Homes on C. Raymundo Street, Barangay Caniogan, Pasig when four unidentified men onboard a blue Hyundai Van (XAT-194) appeared and forced Tan into the vehicle.

NBI men nab LPG pilferers

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation arrested 10 men that pilfered an estimated P500,000 worth of liquid petroleum gas.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Jose Marlon Mateo, 36, and Danilo G. Reyes, 33, both employees of the Northern Gas Corp.; Herbert P. Jacobe, Melchor M. Balbanero, Rodolfo S. Vizcarra Jr., Reynaldo R. Florendo, Michael E. Castro, Hermogenes P. Dela Cruz, Wilfredo A. Sayno, and Eusebio V. Evangelista.

Wycoco said the suspects connived to pilfer LPG from Northern Gas since January.

Wycoco said Avelino Tee, Northern Gas hauling operator, complained to the NBI that some of their employees were pilfering LPG.

On Wednesday, an NBI team waited for the suspects in an abandoned quarry in Carmona, Cavite and arrested them at around 6 p.m., when the 10 men arrived and began transferring LPG from a Northern Gas tanker to two unmarked mini-tankers.

The NBI also seized the generator sets and motorized pumps the suspects used to pilfer LPG.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

There is still no substitute for breast-feeding

By Joey C. Papa
and Ana Ver-Papa
Contributors

BREAST-FEEDING is good not only for babies up to two years old, as the commercial and milk container notice points out, but also for you and me and the rest of the world.

That was the message of the World Breast-feeding Week, which opened the month of August this year.

It is essentially the same message that the World Alliance for Breast-feeding Action (Waba) spreads every year in 120 countries.

Waba is made up of people's organizations worldwide that seek to protect, promote and support breast-feeding.

Breast milk is good for babies, mothers, fathers, and the environment for many reasons, according to the book, "The Milk of Human Kindness." And there are many more reasons, as the founders, mothers, fathers, babies, wet nurses, friends and supporters of the group Arugaan have learned.

Arugaan

Arugaan, which means "nurturing fully," was formed in 1989 by nine professionals, academicians, social development and health workers and community leaders who have been actively advocating breast-feeding since the early 1980s. It has worked with labor unions, people's organizations, employers, and government agencies in setting up creches in the workplace. At present, Arugaan's lead nurturers are executive director Ines Avellana Fernandez, deputy executive director Nona Andaya Castillo, and Dr. Elvira Lichauco Henares-Esguerra, director of the Arugaan Breast-feeding Clinic.

Launched last Aug. 1 at the Makati Medical Center, the clinic is not separate from the hospital set-up but must be integrated into and carried out through the total hospital orientation and services that should be child-, mother-, and family-friendly.

Breast-feeding, according to its proponents, enhances the development of the brain, the child's readiness for learning, and the child's sharpness of vision. These are due to the special fatty acids in breast milk as well as the special interaction between mother and child.

'Milk of human kindness'

The book "The Milk of Human Kindness," published jointly by the International Women Count Network and the Waba Women and Work Task Force, cites several studies and actual experiences affirming that breast-fed infants are much less vulnerable than bottle-fed infants to infectious diseases and malnutrition. This is because breast milk "contains the right mixture of protein, carbohydrate, fat, vitamins and minerals to provide an unequalled food for babies, which alone, without supplementation (not even water), provides the ideal complete diet for about the first six months of life," the book says.

Breast milk also builds up in the child's body a strong immune system, which is not fully developed until the child is about six years old. Thus, the book says, nursing mothers can protect their children at this stage by "passing on anti-infective factors and immune regulators through their milk."

It must also be noted that these anti-infective properties "uniquely vary with the locality, so that the child is immunized against those potentially harmful viruses and bacteria native to where she/he is born."

Women who breast-feed, according to the book, are less prone to pre-menopausal breast and ovarian cancer and osteoporosis in old age. Breast-feeding also reduces post-partum blood loss, delays the return of menstruation, and lengthens the period before another pregnancy, which helps in proper child spacing.

For weight-watchers

For the figure-conscious, breast-feeding makes it faster for the womb to return to its normal size after childbirth.

The book also identifies the environmental hazards from the production, marketing, transport, and consumption of artificial milk, and the disposal of the containers.

Breast milk "comes in its own long-lasting containers which double as 'feeding equipment,' requires no fuel for heating and no refrigeration, and is always ready to serve at the right temperature." Unlike infant formula, it is "not skimmed, processed, pasteurized, homogenized, packaged, stored, transported, repackaged, dried, reconstituted, sterilized, or wasted." And it is not genetically modified.

In the US alone, some 1,230 tons of paper are used for labels, not to mention the many more tons used for promotions.

Rainforests

The preparation for a one-year supply of infant formula "would use up an entire major forestry project worth $10 million in Mozambique," while the dairy industry must allot 10,000 square meters of pasture for one cow alone. The book says that to meet this demand, many countries are clearing rain forests.

Cow's flatulence has aggravated the greenhouse effect causing global warming, according to the book.

Contamination

Environmental contamination due to all forms of garbage and pollutants, as well as nuclear accidents, moreover, has also contaminated cow's milk, especially so because "radioactive elements are particularly concentrated in grass."

Also, "breast-feeding fulfills the development of all the five senses, plus a sixth sense," says Arugaan director Dr. Henares-Esguerra.

As the baby sucks the milk from the mother's breast, the baby discovers the sense of taste. At the same time, the baby learns more of touch as the baby's free hand explores and feels the mother's skin; of smell, while breathing in her comforting fragrance; of sound, as the baby hears the lullaby of the mothers' heartbeat.

Sixth sense

Development of the sense of sight follows later as long, loving looks are exchanged between mother and child during long and frequent feedings.

The sixth sense, said the good doctor who is actively breast-feeding her 10-month-old son, is the spiritual sense, as she connects her baby to God who gives of the milk of His Divine Kindness.

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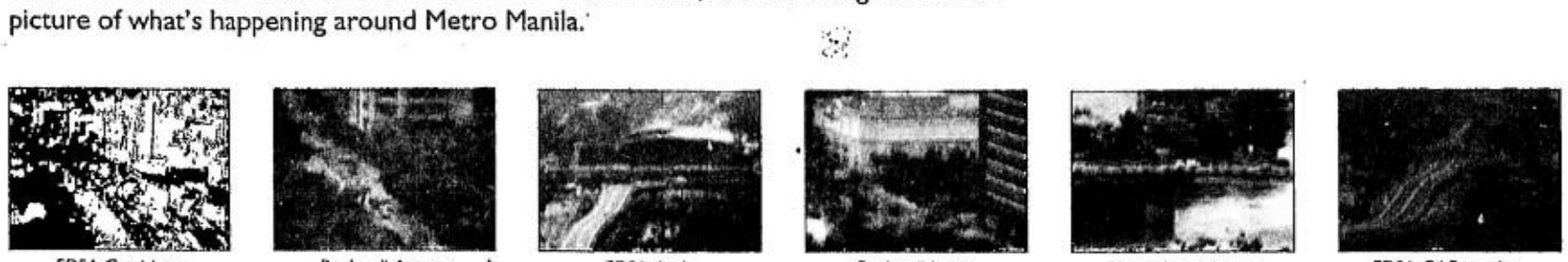
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Lawman beaten up in Parañaque

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOR RESPONDING to a friend's cry for help, a Parañaque policeman was beaten up in Makati City by three brothers and several unidentified men early yesterday morning. The suspects also took the lawman's gun.

Makati Police have arrested brothers Angelito, 29, Arman, 27, and Allan Gasparillo, 23, all residents of Barangay Pembo, for allegedly mauling P02 Allan O. Abarra.

Police have recovered Abarra's 9-mm service firearm from the suspects' father.

Abarra told investigators that he was sleeping in his house in Pembo when three of his friends dropped by and woke him up at around 1:30 a.m. yesterday. Abarra said he learned that his friend Mel had been hit on the head with a bottle, so he went out to help Mel.

He went to Mel's house and, upon reaching Rosal Street, the suspects' group started to throw rocks at him before they fled.

Abarra said he ran after the group and announced that he was a policeman, but the group ganged up on him on Santan Street.

A witness said one of the suspects hit Abarra's hand with a big rock before he seized the victim's service firearm and magazine. In the melee, a shot rang out, but no one was reported hit.

Abarra told investigators that the group continued to beat him up until he passed out. When he gained consciousness, he was in the Ospital ng Makati.

He said he will be able to recognize the suspects because he plays basketball with them.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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TIMES	SCOOBY DOO / STUART LITTLE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
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REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
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A	BESTMAN
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CINEMA-1	INT HE MOOD FOR LOVE
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CINEMA-1	PROSTI
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOUCH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA-12	FRAILITY
CINEMA-14	0
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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2 THE TOUCH	THE TUXEDO 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	2 BLOODWORK
3 MR. DEEDS	4 0 5 BIRTHDAY GIRL	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26	THE TOUCH 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	THE TUXEDO
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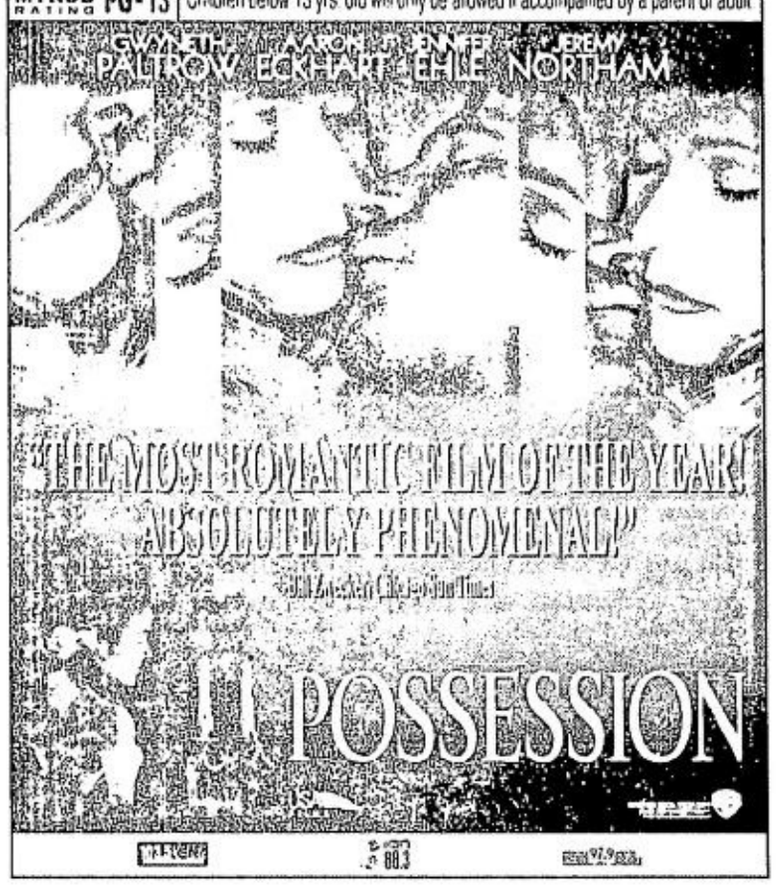

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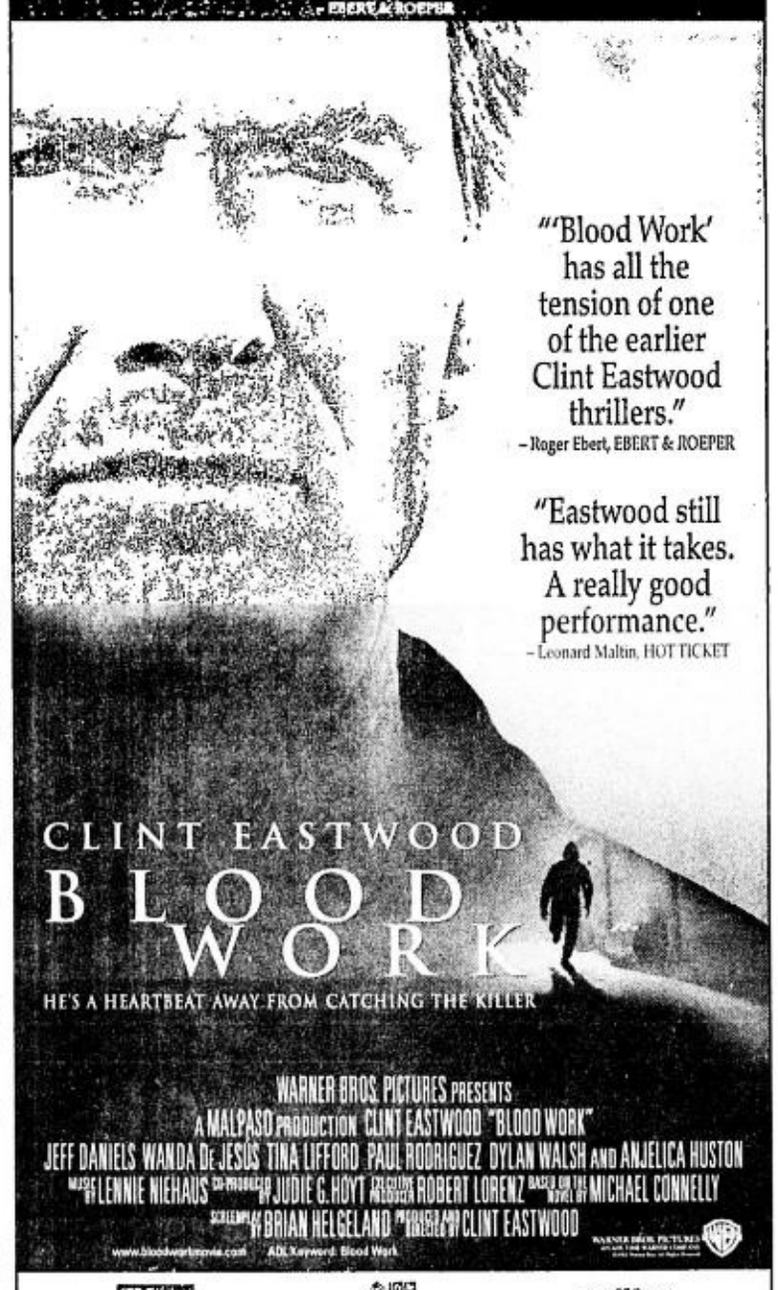

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'Capricious, whimsical, personal'

By Jerome Aning

THE FIRM that erected a parking structure on the Mehan Gardens in Manila does not owe the Department of Environment and Natural Resources anything.

According to Mayor Lito Atienza, the Makati City-based Park N' Ride Inc. should not pay the P7.5 million demanded by DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez because the building was finished eight months after the Mehan was declared a historical landmark by the National Historical Institute on Aug. 14.

Atienza described Alvarez's payment demand as "capricious, whimsical and personal."

On Aug. 13, 2001, the DENR cancelled Park N' Ride's environmental compliance certificate because the firm failed to secure a permit from the NHI.

According to the NHI, it is against the law to modify, alter, repair or destroy the original features of any place or edifice declared historical without prior permission from the agency.

The DENR is fining the firm P50,000 per day for a total of 146 days--the duration of the construction--plus P50,000 for going ahead with the project without an ECC.

Atienza, however, has a different interpretation. He said the NHI declaration was in fact, "a victory for us, since it proves that we are correct in our assumption that Mehan was never a historical place."

"The declaration is not a post-dated check which Mr. Alvarez can encash anytime he wants," the mayor said.

"Mehan was not historical when the parking structure was being built, so it could not have violated any law in the first place."

The NHI has always maintained the Mehan as a historical site, citing the 1934 marker installed by the NHI's predecessor agency, the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee.

OF MICE AND LAUNDRYWOMEN

Annabel Santos, 34, and her family play a game of cat and mouse with the authorities: the family will illegally set up a makeshift dwelling on vacant private lots which the authorities will seek out and tear down. Here, on a vacant lot along the NIA Road in Quezon City, Annabel is in-between evictions, finding the time to do her laundry and tend to her daughter Erica, 2.

VAL HANDUMON

UE senior wounded in frat violence

By Tina Santos

A 22-YEAR-OLD graduating student of the University of the East is now in critical condition after three members of a rival fraternity allegedly stabbed him Wednesday night in Caloocan City.

Victim Frank Tuyao, of Grace Park, Caloocan, is now undergoing treatment at the Manila Central University after he was stabbed in the back.

Police arrested Edwin Ventura, 18, and Erwin Dahading, 21, both residents of Caloocan City; and Julius Santos, 20, of Project 8, Quezon City.

Officer-on-case SPO2 Tony Penaranda said rival fraternities clashed at around 9 p.m. on A. Asistio corner San Diego Streets, Caloocan.

Police said they have not identified the warring fraternities because the arrested suspects denied they were members of a fraternity in the university.

The suspects are now detained at the Caloocan police headquarters and will be charged with frustrated homicide.

A blessed dinner concert at the Manila Midtown

VIMA Inspirational Music will celebrate its third anniversary with a thanksgiving dinner-concert called "A Blessed Minis3" on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Intramuros Room of the Manila Midtown Hotel on Pedro Gil and M. Adriatico Streets, Ermita.

The men behind Vima are Reynaldo Vigilia and Sam Malaki. Hosts of the concert will be Dan Andrew Cura and Sarah Jean Padrinao.

Makati exec says son of ex-senator hit him

By Leila Salaverria

HOMER R. Baria has accused the son and namesake of former Senator Gil Puyat of hitting him during a meeting in Makati City.

Baria, 45, consultant of Progressive Software, told police that during an Oct. 1 meeting at the Loyola Plans building on Pasay Road, Makati, Puyat, Jr., chair of the Loyola board, hit him in the head with a cane, drawing blood.

Baria said when Puyat walked in the boardroom with an unidentified bodyguard at 2:50 p.m., the latter sounded angry when he asked who had invited Baria to the meeting.

Baria said that he told Puyat it was Loyola Education that invited them. But Puyat allegedly replied that Loyola Education has been abolished since April 12, and he would kick in the head the person who would not follow the letter of Loyola Plans President and CEO Jesusa Concepcion.

Baria said it was when he turned his back to make a cellular phone call that Puyat hit him.

Baria said he then left the building and went to the Makati Medical Center for treatment.

But according to Mario Reyes, lawyer of Loyola Plans, it was Baria who had made slanderous remarks against Puyat.

Reyes said the meeting stemmed from Loyola Plans' intention of auditing Progressive Software, which they had hired for services.

Reyes said Baria's company has been delayed in its services and has refused to cooperate with the auditing team. Reyes said that Loyola Plans is prepared to meet Baria's charges of physical injuries against Puyat.

He said the company would file slander charges against Baria, and would also haul Progressive Software to court for not complying with its contractual obligations.

Reporter's husband stabbed dead

By Alcuin Papa

THE HUSBAND of a tabloid reporter was killed yesterday when his uncle allegedly stabbed him in Quezon City.

Alex Dela Cruz, 33, of Galas, Quezon City, was the husband of Pilipino Star Ngayon reporter Angie dela Cruz.

Police said he died at around 4 a.m. yesterday after he was stabbed in the heart.

Police are now hunting down suspect Rodrigo Cruz.

According to initial police reports, the suspect had revenge in mind when he stabbed the victim dead. Police said dela Cruz earlier filed a court case against the suspect for illegal electrical connection.

Police said dela Cruz again confronted Cruz over the latter's illegal connection. While they were arguing, the suspect allegedly lost his temper, took out a bladed weapon and stabbed the victim in the heart.

Investigation also revealed that Cruz has a pending case before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for attempted homicide.

The Dela Cruz family is now set to file murder charges against the suspect.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 12, 2002
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gal 3:22-29
Gospel: Lk 11:27-28

As Jesus was speaking, a woman spoke from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the one who bore you and nursed you!" Jesus replied, "Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well."

Commentary

After the malign accusation of yesterday, the praise of Jesus today by an unknown woman for his maternal origins is a welcome respite. Only a woman can utter such praises of the nurturing and enduring care of another woman. The maternal security, which such love bestowed on the gestating and infant Jesus despite all the hassles of his virginal conception and birth, was among what gave the human Jesus the guts to stand the insults and threats against him in his proclamation of the word on God's reign. Indeed, Jesus recognized the blessedness not only of his mother but also of all those who continuously listen to the word of God, ponder it in their hearts, and keep it, bearing fruits of penance—the true worship of God through a tender care for others, especially the poor and the afflicted—a trait completely alien to the macho attitude of his enemies. Truly how much our society and church need to recover the feminist principle to render us more sane and sound in our being and relations!

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

COMMERCIAL LAW/MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—General rule is that a corporation that purchases the assets of another corporation will not be liable for the debts of the selling corporation; exceptions—As a rule, a corporation that purchases the assets of another will not be liable for the debts of the selling corporation, provided the former acted in good faith and paid adequate consideration for such assets, except when any of the following circumstances is present: (1) where the purchaser expressly or impliedly agrees to assume the debts, (2) where the transaction amounts to a consolidation or merger of the corporations, (3) where the purchasing corporation is merely a continuation of the selling corporation, and (4) where the transaction is fraudulently entered into in order to escape liability for those debts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Philippine National Bank v. Andrada Electric and Engineering Company, G. R. No. 142936, April 17, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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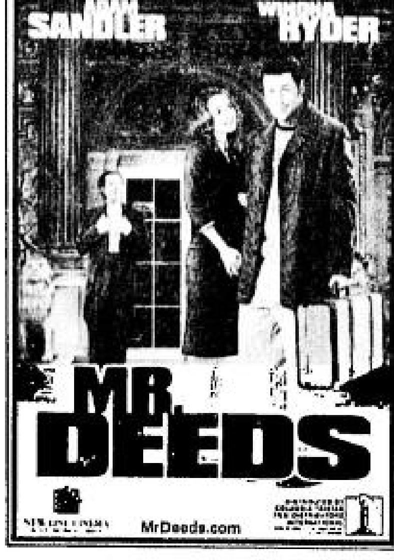

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METRO

Malonzo denies hand in Gotesco land scam

By Tina Santos

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday denied any involvement in the Gotesco land scam and questioned the findings and recommendation of the Senate blue ribbon committee that he be charged with plunder for the anomalies that attended the multimillion-peso sale of government property to Gotesco.

The Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigation (blue ribbon) has already urged the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice and the Supreme Court to investigate those responsible for the scam.

Malonzo said he is blaming certain "interested parties" for the claim that he had benefited from the sale of the property, which the senators deemed "grossly disadvantageous to the city government."

He said he had disapproved on several occasions the sale of the 2.2685-hectare (22,685 square meters) property on Rizal Avenue Extension where the Ever Gotesco Grand Central Mall now stands.

He added the NBI, which had investigated the case, never included his name among those who should be made liable.

"I have in fact opposed the sale as approved by the city council by vetoing the ordinance," Malonzo said. "But the council overrode my veto, paving the way for the land's eventual sale."

Malonzo said he refused to accept P182-million from Gotesco as payment for the sale of the property because the price was way below the prevailing market value. The city council approved that offer for the whole lot.

The mayor also defended himself against allegations that he did not make any effort to collect taxes on the property from Gotesco. He said as of 1997, Gotesco has incurred some P19 million in tax arrears. He said this has already ballooned to P289 million and is still increasing.

The committee has recommended the filing of charges against Malonzo, his predecessor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr., and other Caloocan city officials past and present.

The committee also recommended the indictment of lawyer Yolanda Alfonso of the Registry of Deeds, another lawyer who participated in the alleged anomalous transaction, and Jose Go, Gotesco Mall owner and president of Gotesco Investments Inc. that bought the property.

The committee, in its 14-page report, also asked the DOJ to look into the "NBI's hesitancy to go after private and public officials responsible for the anomalous transfer they have discovered in its own report."

Malolos is now a city

By Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

FINALLY, the historic town of Malolos, which lost its cityhood bid in a 1999 plebiscite, has become Bulacan's newest city.

In a 71-page decision, Commissioner Ralph Lantion and two other commissioners of the Commission on Elections' second division on Tuesday favored the petition to nullify the results of the plebiscite converting Malolos into a component city.

Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, author of the bill converting Malolos into a component city, described the development as "a prolonged victory of the people."

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said it was his first time to encounter a plebiscite protest case.

Former Mayor Resty Roque and two other petitioners filed the petition to nullify the results of the plebiscite due to irregularities. They claimed there was massive misreading of the "no" votes, vote padding and sharing.

A total of 11,535 people voted against the cityhood while 9,321 people voted for it. But based on the Comelec decision, 10,746 people approved the cityhood while 8,402 voted against.

The Comelec commissioners said a number of ballots were written by one person. Some ballots were also missing.

Malolos, which has 59 villages, is also the capital of Bulacan.

Contrary to reports, there would be no increase in the real property and business taxes because the budget from the Internal Revenue Allotment would increase from P70 million to more than P200 million, Alvarado said.

NBI seizes stolen government rice worth P15M

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation confiscated P15 million worth of government rice that were diverted to a private warehouse in Valenzuela City.

The NBI is also investigating the officials behind the diversion, especially since "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" trucks delivered the 12,500 sacks of rice from the National Food Authority to the warehouse.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men raided the warehouse of the Lucky Ventures Forwarders Inc. on F. de Zafra Street, Maysan, Valenzuela City, owned and managed by a certain Jorge Ang.

Lucky Ventures has no NFA license and it is not in the Bureau of Customs' list of registered rice importers, Wycoco said.

He added the NFA rice were re-bagged into commercial sacks and stockpiled in an adjacent warehouse.

The warehouse allegedly was also operating without the necessary business license and permit as a private warehouse.

Head Agent Sixto Comia of the NBI-Criminal Intelligence Division said NBI agents found five "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" trucks in the warehouse, beside several luxury vehicles during the raid on Tuesday.

He said the bureau is now investigating a company named Philfodex, which allegedly owns the trucks.

The NFA allegedly subcontracted Philfodex to deliver rice to its warehouse. The NBI wants to find out why the trucks delivered the sacks of rice, imported from India, to Lucky Ventures.

"We suspect an attempt to destabilize the administration," NBI Deputy Director Lolito Utitco said in a press conference yesterday. "They used the trucks with the markings 'Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera.'"

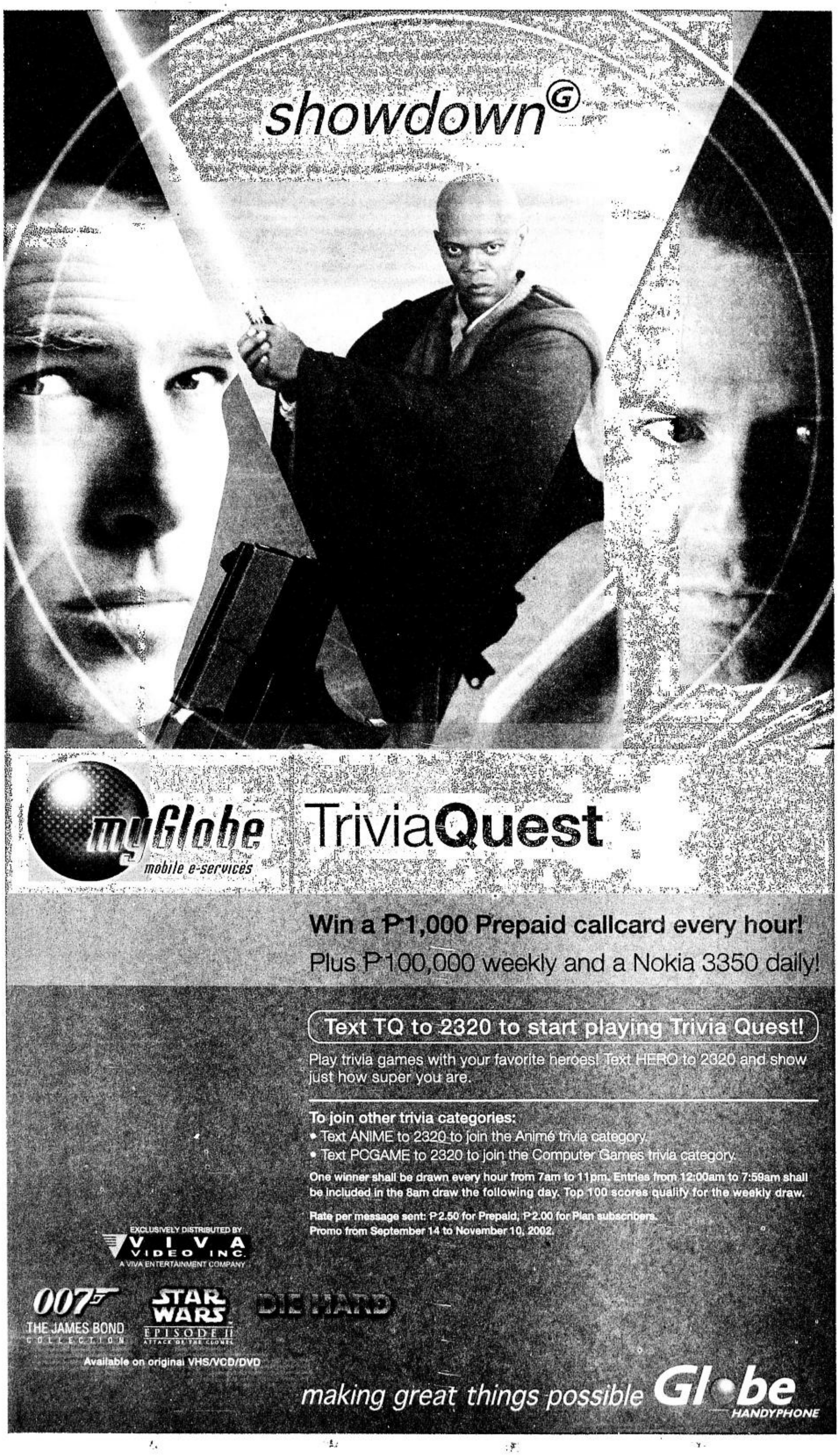
Comia said the bureau began investigating the warehouse after they received reports that it had thousands of sacks of NFA rice.

He said when the NBI and Valenzuela City Hall inspectors went to the warehouse to implement a closure order, they saw "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" trucks deliver thousands of sacks of NFA rice.

Comia said they immediately applied for search warrants from the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court and hit the warehouse on the same day the warrant was issued.

Besides the sacks of NFA rice, the NBI seized weighing scales and other tools for re-bagging.

Comia said while Ang was not arrested, the bureau charged him in court for diverting NFA rice and then re-bagging it into commercial sacks, a violation of NFA rules, the National Grains Authority Act, and the Consumers Act of the Philippines.



BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

SMC to invest $140M in Australia

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. plans to spend $140 million to build two new glass plants in Australia, a move which aims to strengthen its foothold in the Asia-Pacific region.

San Miguel said yesterday it was planning to put up the new 250-ton glass plants in Brisbane and Sydney through subsidiary San Miguel Packaging Products (SMPP) in order to complement existing facilities in China (Zhaoquing San Miguel Glass Co. Ltd.) and Vietnam (San Miguel Yamamura Haiphong Glass Co. Ltd.).

The new plants aim to initially service the packaging requirements of Australian brewers Lyon Nathan and J Boag & Sons.

Lyon Nathan is 40 percent owned by Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd. of Japan, which, in turn, has a 15-percent stake in San Miguel, while J Boag is an offshore subsidiary of SMC.

"Now that we have strengthened our position in the domestic market, we will continue to pursue our goal of becoming a major regional player. This project is in line with that thrust of strengthening our presence in the region," San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

A company statement noted that Australia was currently one of SMPP's strongest markets in the packaging business, particularly glass containers.

Aside from the glass plants, SMPP also operates crown plants in China (San Miguel Shunde Packaging Co. Ltd.) and Vietnam (San Miguel Phu Tho Packaging Co. Ltd.) as well as a plastic plant in Indonesia (PT San Miguel Sampoerna Packaging Industries Ltd.).

SMPP pumped in P13.56 billion in revenues or about 11 percent of SMC's P121.6 billion in net sales in 2001.

Last year was very challenging for the company amid the pullout of some multinational companies from local manufacturing as well as the advent of e-bidding, which drove down profit margins.

SMPP's five overseas joint ventures are operationally cash self-sufficient, four of which are profitable.

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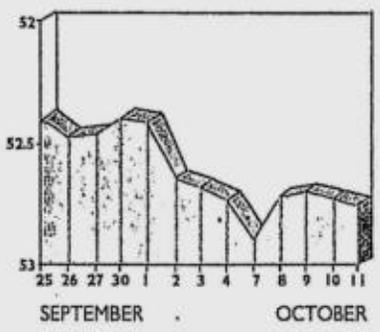

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 11, 2002

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Morgan Stanley cuts RP debt rating

AMERICAN investment bank Morgan Stanley cut its recommendation on the external debts of the Philippines to "underperform" while raising those on Argentina and Uruguay to "market perform."

Argentina and Uruguay had previously been at underperform, while the Philippines was at market perform.

In its quarterly report released in New York on Thursday, Morgan Stanley said the reduction in the Philippines came on the back of the country's poor fiscal performance—it expects its budget deficit to exceed 4 percent of gross domestic product this year—and its heavy financing needs.

"We will now be looking primarily for evidence that revenue collections are improving and that the issuance schedule is not going to put pressure on rates for us to change that view," said Morgan Stanley.

The investment bank said the increase in Argentina, which is suffering from a severe financial crisis after a partial debt default and devaluation, was part of its overall defensive stance. It said Argentina's debt prices in the $20s, compared with a restructuring value in the mid-$30s, had a "compelling" risk-reward ratio.

Morgan Stanley added it could not recommend a large trade of Argentina, however, given the high risk of capital loss. *Reuters*

Asian stock markets bask in Wall Street glow

SINGAPORE—Asian shares rallied yesterday, taking heart from a Wall Street jump from five-year lows, but investors worried that this was only a temporary bounce rather than a first step on the path of a long-term recovery.

The region's largest market, Tokyo, rose from 19-year lows as investors scooped up blue chips, helping the Nikkei average rise 1.7 percent. The Seoul market, which fell sharply on Thursday, was up 2.4 percent.

"Sure, this is just a technical rebound, but let's enjoy it while it lasts," said Hiroshi Sato, general manager at Cosmo Securities' equities department in Tokyo.

The Philippine stock market rose slightly yesterday driven by bargain hunting in select large caps led by mall developer SM Prime, but turnover was light as most investors were sidelined due to local concerns and Iraq worries, analysts said.

"The market rose partly due to bargain hunting and the rebound on Wall Street overnight," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

The Philippine main index closed 8.90 points or 0.84 percent higher at 1,072.19 points. On the week, the index was down 2.7 percent.

Turnover fell sharply to P127.56 million from Thursday's P586.35 million. Gainers led losers 25 to 19 and there were 44 stocks unchanged.

Wall Street, often a cue for trading on Asian markets, has been gripped by its worst bear market in 60 years, but stocks in the United States and Europe offered some relief on Thursday by rallying on the back of strong earnings reports.

The stock buying helped the dollar, but hit US Treasuries and gold, which had risen earlier as investors sought a safe haven from the stock market rout.

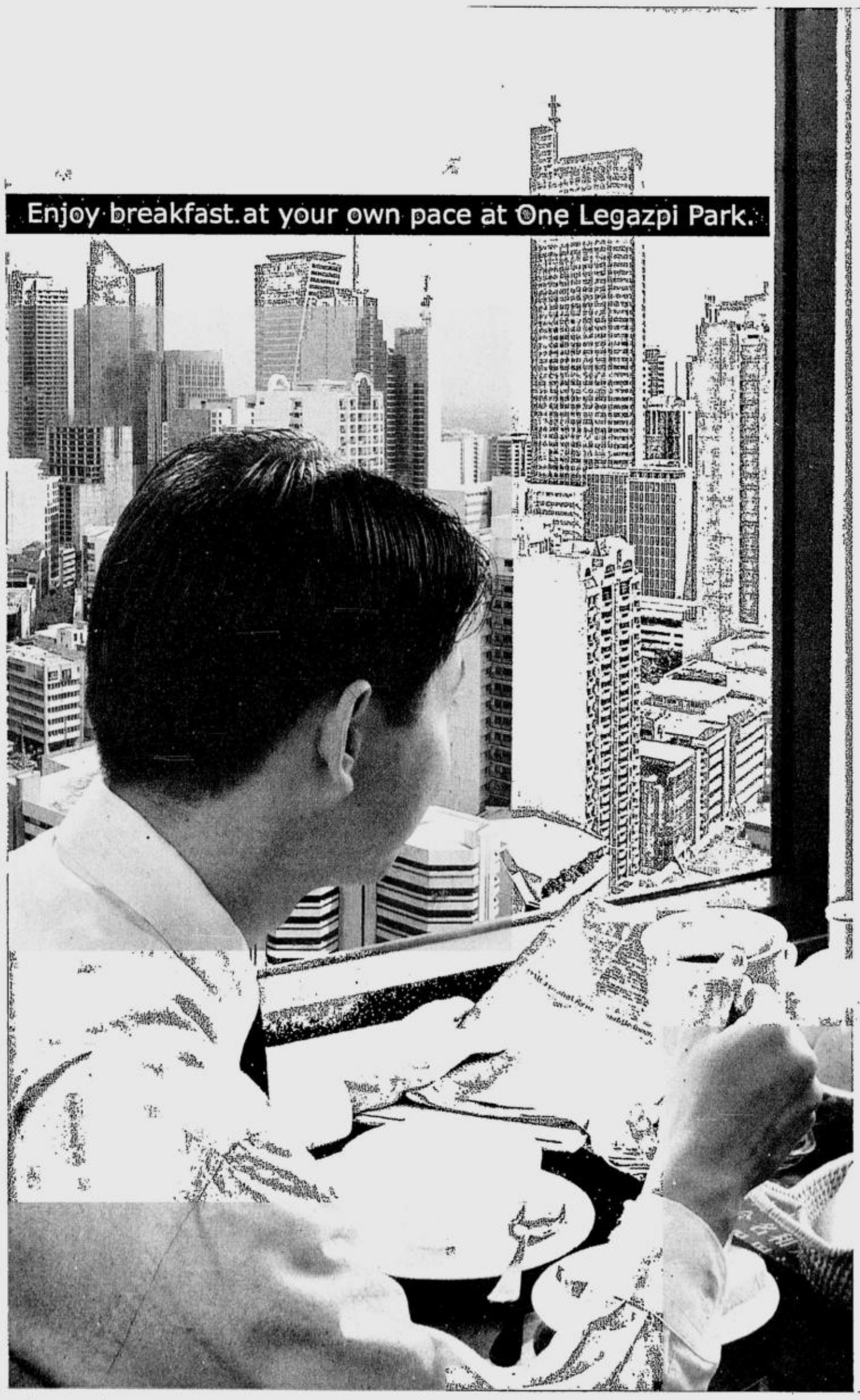
Wall Street's mood was helped by Internet leader Yahoo Inc., which jumped 23 percent after reporting strong earnings, and by a better-than-expected US employment report.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average rallied 3.4 percent to 7,533.95, coming off a five-year low of 7,197.49.

The broad-based S&P 500 rose 3.5 percent to 803.92, after hitting a five-year low of 768.63, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq rose 4.42 percent to 1,163.37, after touching a six-year low at 1,108.49 earlier in the session.

Major bourses in Europe also rose several percentage points on the day, helped by Wall Street but also by an easing of worries about bad loans at banks and insolvency worries at insurance firms.

Asian markets picked up the baton. Tokyo's Nikkei average, which has fallen 20 percent this year, was up 1.74 percent at 8,586.85 points. *Reuters*



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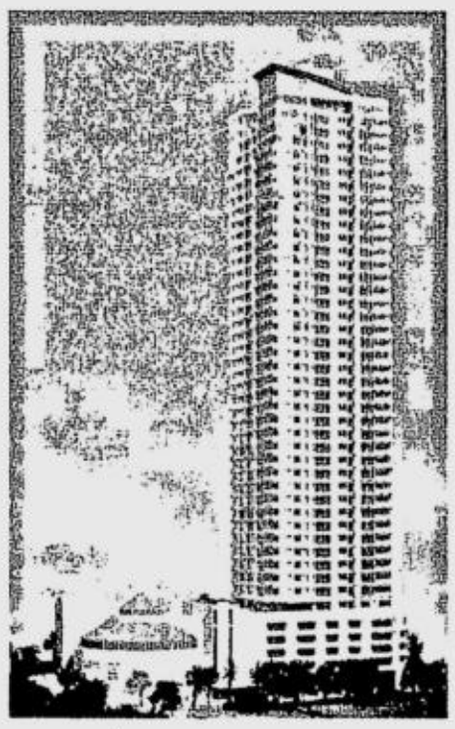

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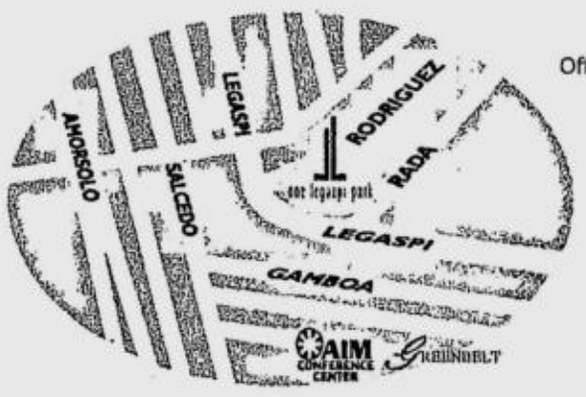

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Soft opera

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ABOUT two months from now, on Dec. 15, this cute administration of Gloriaetta wants the Naia Terminal 3 to have a "soft opening."

No wonder, the holder of the controversial contract for the airport terminal, the one and only Piatco, is busy spinning some tales of woe. Well and good.

It's just that I'm not sure what "soft opening" really means. Perhaps it means the terminal is open, but then again, actually, you cannot use it yet.

The soft opening should offer a lot of photo-op. In this way, a "soft opening" is like soap opera. You know - the soapy soft opening is just a lot of drama.

* * *

RECENTLY, the congressional oversight committee, which has the "gang of four" in the House of Representatives, starring Rep. Jacinto Paras, held an executive session.

That should be an opening for Piatco, although it's neither soft nor hard, but just an opening, to do some more of its ever operational clever spin.

My info is, the PR machinery of Piatco, featuring its spokesperson Moises Tolentino, worked overtime to destroy Naia general manager Ed Manda.

Piatco whined to the congressmen against Manda. He would not support the terminal's soap, este, "soft opening." As expected, their hearts cried out for Piatco!

* * *

IT turned out that Piatco, and not the government outfit Naia, based on its contract with the government, was the one not living up to its promises.

Under its contract, for instance, Piatco should build infrastructure to support the terminal, such as its road links with, for instance, the domestic terminal.

In that secret, *este,* closed door session, Manda testified before the House committee that Piatco did not even start any of the infrastructure projects yet.

The Piatco contract, after all, was a BOT, a build-operate-transfer contract. The government was not supposed to spend a single centavo, not even a cross-eyed centavo.

* * *

YET the Piatco spin doctors are silent, mysteriously, on the huge expense of the government for this supposedly no-cost-to-the-government BOT project.

Based on secret estimates of this cute administration, to provide the Naia Terminal 3 at least a decent operation, the government must spend P10 billion.

That's about $200 million. Add to it Piatco's claim of $550 million for the cost of the terminal. We come up with $750 million. This is a BOT—no cost to the public! *Daw!*

Who then, pray tell, will shoulder such an amazing amount for a supposedly cost-free project? Wait, don't tell me! I think it's going to be . . . well, YOU!

* * *

ASIDE from the problem of access, I really think it's hard for the international airline passengers to use Terminal 3 by this December without the airplanes.

From what I hear, based on a memo from the Airline Operators Council, none of the international airlines are transferring to Terminal 3 until it is fully ready.

For one, the airlines are avoiding Piatco, much more the lease agreements it is peddling to them, at least until Piatco can settle the controversy over its contract.

It is under review by the Canlas committee, which is reviewing the review done by Gloria Tan Climaco who reviewed the Neda review of the original Piatco contract.

* * *

IT'S not even because the airlines are asking for at least six more months to build their offices in the terminal, and so why do they rush the "soft opening?"

The real problem is, Piatco has nobody to run the terminal for. The German firm Fraport already gave up on Piatco as partner. Nobody can blame Fraport, actually.

Anyway, my info is, to woo the international airlines to move over soon, Piatco is looking for another German firm to operate the terminal. How funny is that?

Fraport actually put up 96 percent of the cost to build Terminal 3, and Piatco, 4 percent. And here comes Piatco, working to give the project to Fraport's competitor.

* * *

BUT to me, the real issue here is not the "soft opening." The issue here is the money. Where did it go? The terminal already cost $550 million, and it is not even finished.

Yet, as my source in the Cabinet said, this cute administration will not go for an audit of the project. I thought it was the only way to find out where the money went.

No audit is forthcoming, I tell you, despite the indirect "guarantee" to which, thanks to changes in the original Piatco contract, the government is now exposed.

Again, there will be no audit. Even if, at the end of the day, we, the public, pay for all of it? Even if we all run out of television soap!

* * *

IF you think traffic is terrible, just you wait four years from now. I refer you to that famous study done by a Japanese group on Metro Manila traffic.

I promise that you will curse the night, or probably the daytime, on the kitchen floor, your mother and father had fun, and nine months later, there you were.

The study says that by 2006, some 12,000 buses will come from the north into Metro Manila everyday. From south, we'll get a little discount at 11,000 buses.

By that time, nothing will move in the streets of Metro Manila anymore. This metropolis will be the world's biggest parking lot.

* * *

YOU wonder thus what's keeping the government from doing all those mass transit projects. The MRT Line 7, for instance, is delayed.

It should serve the northeast portion of Metro Manila, running between North Avenue in Quezon City and the town of Tala in Bulacan.

You then connect its terminal to the North Luzon Expressway with a road, and you can provide traffic relief, aside from opening up a big area to mass transport.

Only one problem—some politicians are fighting it. My info is, they are pushing for another project, which was already "disapproved" by the government.

And so we just suffer the traffic!

Banks' bad loans down 1.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKS' bad loans dropped for the second straight month in August to 17.58 percent of their total loan portfolio, from 17.75 percent in the previous month.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the banks' bad loans dropped 1.81 percent to P280.62 billion, from P285.79 billion in July, due largely to increased foreclosure and restructuring activities of the banks.

As a result, their real and other properties owned or acquired grew by P3.82 billion to P175.67 billion or 5.61 percent of gross assets, while the current restructured loans swelled by P5.89 billion or a ratio of 7.89 percent of total loans.

The banks' total loan portfolio also dropped by 0.87 percent to P1.596 trillion in August, from P1.610 trillion in July.

Significant decline in loan portfolio was registered by foreign banks' branches here (P7.98 billion), private universal banks (P4.44 billion) and government banks (P2.11 billion).

Taking interbank loans out of the portfolio, the NPL ratio also slid to 20.19 percent from 20.44 percent in July.

The banks' NPL ratio is expected to further improve with a new BSP policy that took effect last month which excluded from the computation of bad loans about P45 billion worth of debts that have already been practically written off by banks.

While criticized by Standard & Poor's for encouraging banks to be less transparent, the BSP defended its new policy saying that the Monetary Board had imposed stiff criteria for loans with 100-percent provisioning to qualify.

Banks are also not allowed to remove even fully covered loans from their balance sheets. They can only take these loans out for the purpose of computing their bad loans, said the BSP.

The new ruling will neither affect the capital adequacy ratio of banks nor will it window-dress income or total assets, it added.

As of August, the banks' provision for loan losses increased by P650 million, raising the coverage ratio to 49.29 percent from 48.17 percent in July.

The ratio of the banks' bad assets to total assets also declined to 14.56 percent.

The revised definition of NPLs is expected to help bring down the level of bad loans on paper while the legislation that will provide incentives to Special Purpose Asset Vehicles or SPAVs is still pending in Congress.

Unilab bid for MPC stake in Fort Boni a 'calculated risk'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNITED Laboratories Inc. (Unilab) said it had made a "calculated risk" in bidding for Metro Pacific Corp.'s stake in the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City as part of the Philippine pharmaceutical giant's foray into real estate development.

Queried on whether his group considered Fort Bonifacio a good buy, Unilab chair Joselito Campos said: "It's a calculated risk but there might be a chance we could get it at the right price."

The Ayala group, Unilab's partner in the Ayala Greenfield Estates project, confirmed that it was joining forces with the Campos family in making an offer for MPC's Fort Bonifacio stake.

Ayala's Fernando Zobel refused to comment on the partnership claiming that all information had been fully disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange. Ayala lost to Metro Pacific in the bidding for Fort Bonifacio in 1995.

Unilab emerged among the prospective bidders for Fort Bonifacio as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Inc. president Manuel V. Pangilinan looked for backers to his bid to thwart taipan John Gokongwei's takeover of the country's largest telecommunications firm and Fort Bonifacio.

Gokongwei had offered to buy from First Pacific its 25-percent interest in PLDT and 50.4-percent interest in Bonifacio Land Corp. for $616.6 million in cash (payable over three years) and assume the $109-million loan owed by Metro Pacific to Larouge. Based on a net saleable land of 12.5 hectares to 16.5 hectares, Gokongwei had value the Fort Bonifacio property at P39,000 to P50,000 per square meter or a premium over its acquisition cost of P33,000 per square meter.

The deal, however, could not push through as Gokongwei failed to conduct a mandatory due diligence on PLDT and Fort Bonifacio after its exclusivity agreement with First Pacific lapsed on Sept. 30, due to the legal obstacles laid down by Pangilinan.

After Gokongwei's withdrawal, the Unilab-Ayala group remained interested in making a bid for the Fort Bonifacio property but at a much lower price than what was offered by the taipan.

During the launch of the Ayala Greenfield Estates project Thursday night, Campos revealed that Unilab had earmarked over P2 billion over the next 12 months to buy more property, preferably South of Metro Manila, and boost its land bank.

PCI Leasing STCPs renewed

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. for the renewal of the registration of its short-term commercial papers worth P250 million.

A publicly listed finance company, PCILFI, will use P150 million of the proceeds from the sale of the STCPs for relending and another P100 million for payment of maturing obligations or commercial papers.

Philippine Rating Services Corp. gave a rating of PRS 1 minus on the finance company's capability to pay both principal and interest on the STCPs.

The rating was based on PCILFI's improved operating results and margins, strong liquidity position, large absolute size of capital and conservative leverage position.

Philratings also noted that there was containment in level of problem assets, support from PCILFI's parent company, Equitable PCI Bank.

However, the ratings agency also noted that finance companies were still vulnerable to the still weak credit market.

The P250 million worth of STCPs will have a maturity of one year. The minimum purchase amount of each registered commercial paper instrument is P300,000. PCILFI principally provides leasing and financing products to commercial clients. On a selective basis, the company also provides loans to individuals, primarily through its employees' personal loans products.

Aboitiz group buys 20% stake in SQL Wizard

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ABOITIZ group has agreed to acquire a 20-percent stake in software service firm SQL Wizard Inc., the first and so far the only small and medium enterprise (SME) listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SQL Wizard said Aboitiz units William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. and Aboitiz One Inc. would each buy 10 percent from SQL Wizard's existing shareholders.

The stake, which was equivalent to 4 million shares, was sold at P3.50 per share or for a total of P14 million.

The original and controlling shareholders of SQL Wizard—Alberto Hermoso Jr., Heraldina Salonga, Antonio Lasala, Enrique Pelaez and Hermegildo Hermoso—will dilute their combined stake to 60 percent from 80 percent after the sale. The remaining 20 percent will continue to be held by the public.

"The entry of the WG&A and Aboitiz is expected to be beneficial to the company because they are the key partners of the company in the development and maintenance of their major automated systems," the disclosure said.

"The proposed investment will be strategic for both companies as it provides them with a vehicle that will enable them to stay in the forefront of any technology innovation," it added.

The partnership is also seen to ensure captive repeat business from clients, open opportunities for future collaboration in product development and expand reach to new customers.

SQL Wizard was WG&A's partner in developing and maintaining its major systems. It developed the former's existing freight operating system, passage ticketing system, cash receipts system and claims system.

In a separate disclosure, WG&A said its acquisition of a stake in SQL Wizard would place the shipping firm "at the forefront of technology innovation."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	42,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	73,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	42	42.5	103,500
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	4,210
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	75,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	88,100
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	35,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1020	1045	1020	1040	1,620
Sun Life Financial Serv.	825	825	820	820	3,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	20,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38	3,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	435	435	430	430	4,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	11,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	6,500,000
Pilte!	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	262.5	250	257.5	83,320
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	29,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17	17	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26	25.5	25.5	380,800
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	106,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	350,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	120,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	512,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	176,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	31,300
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57	56	57	85,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	5	5	634,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	132,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	3	3	42,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	3,070,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	12,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	3,000,000
Music Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	870,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0 23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	18,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0 34	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,700,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	166,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	996,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	2,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,288,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	96,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	6,615,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.195	0.24	0.195	0.24	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	447,720	18,877,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,326,960	62,640,165.00
PRO	12,925,000	45,700,000.00
Mining	540,000	125,300.00
OIL	24,210,000	92,450.00
GRAND TOTALS :	136,449,680	127,435,265.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	419.45	DOWN 0.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,464.13	UP 5.81
PRO	499.86	UP 15.74
Mining	1,100.46	UP 8.60
OIL	1.22	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	588.83	UP 14.88
Composite	1,072.19	UP 8.90

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 88; NO. OF TRADES: 1,077

DISCLOSURES

ISLAND Information and Technology Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 22 to Nov. 18, 2 p.m. at the Casino Español, Ermita, Manila.

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LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 10,000 of its own shares at P31.5 per share.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. has advised the Philippine Stock Exchange that the stock certificates in connection with its property dividends have long been ready but cannot yet be delivered pending the issuance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the required Certificate Authorizing Registration.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures' latest unrestricted retained earnings reached P1.5 billion. The disclosure was made in connection with the company's buy-back last Oct. 10. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 11, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.014610	1.000000	52.7370
Japan	Yen	0.008204	0.008086	0.4264
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587054	1.564200	82.4912
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130083	0.128210	6.7614
Switzerland	Franc	0.683285	0.673446	35.5155
Canada	Dollar	0.638441	0.629247	33.1846
Singapore	Dollar	0.565999	0.557849	29.4193
Australia	Dollar	0.554886	0.546896	28.8417
Bahrain	Dinar	2.691989	2.653224	139.9231
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270563	0.266667	14.0632
Brunei	Dollar	0.566570	0.558411	29.4489
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023191	0.022857	1.2054
UAE	Dirham	0.276272	0.272294	14.3600
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.000801	0.0422
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985600	51.9776
Argentina	Real	0.275709	0.271739	14.3307
Brazil	Real	0.258895	0.255167	13.4567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.132688	6.9976
India	Rupee	0.210016	0.020713	1.0923
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267038	0.263193	13.8800
Mexico	New Peso	0.099676	0.098241	5.1809
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486413	0.479409	25.2826
Norway	Kroner	0.137302	0.135325	7.1366
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017212	0.016964	0.8946
South Africa	Rand	0.097653	0.096247	5.0758
Sweden	Kroner	0.109469	0.107893	5.6900
Syria	Pound	0.022955	0.022624	1.1931
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028980	0.028563	1.5063
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000691	0.000681	0.0359

Soft opera

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ABOUT two months from now, on Dec. 15, this cute administration of Gloriaetta wants the Naia Terminal 3 to have a "soft opening."

No wonder, the holder of the controversial contract for the airport terminal, the one and only Piatco, is busy spinning some tales of woe. Well and good.

It's just that I'm not sure what "soft opening" really means. Perhaps it means the terminal is open, but then again, actually, you cannot use it yet.

The soft opening should offer a lot of photo-op. In this way, a "soft opening" is like soap opera. You know - the soapy soft opening is just a lot of drama.

* * *

RECENTLY, the congressional oversight committee, which has the "gang of four" in the House of Representatives, starring Rep. Jacinto Paras, held an executive session.

That should be an opening for Piatco, although it's neither soft nor hard, but just an opening, to do some more of its ever operational clever spin.

My info is, the PR machinery of Piatco, featuring its spokesperson Moises Tolentino, worked overtime to destroy Naia general manager Ed Manda.

Piatco whined to the congressmen against Manda. He would not support the terminal's soap, este, "soft opening." As expected, their hearts cried out for Piatco!

* * *

IT turned out that Piatco, and not the government outfit Naia, based on its contract with the government, was the one not living up to its promises.

Under its contract, for instance, Piatco should build infrastructure to support the terminal, such as its road links with, for instance, the domestic terminal.

In that secret, *este,* closed door session, Manda testified before the House committee that Piatco did not even start any of the infrastructure projects yet.

The Piatco contract, after all, was a BOT, a build-operate-transfer contract. The government was not supposed to spend a single centavo, not even a cross-eyed centavo.

* * *

YET the Piatco spin doctors are silent, mysteriously, on the huge expense of the government for this supposedly no-cost-to-the-government BOT project.

Based on secret estimates of this cute administration, to provide the Naia Terminal 3 at least a decent operation, the government must spend P10 billion.

That's about $200 million. Add to it Piatco's claim of $550 million for the cost of the terminal. We come up with $750 million. This is a BOT—no cost to the public! *Daw!*

Who then, pray tell, will shoulder such an amazing amount for a supposedly cost-free project? Wait, don't tell me! I think it's going to be . . . well, YOU!

* * *

ASIDE from the problem of access, I really think it's hard for the international airline passengers to use Terminal 3 by this December without the airplanes.

From what I hear, based on a memo from the Airline Operators Council, none of the international airlines are transferring to Terminal 3 until it is fully ready.

For one, the airlines are avoiding Piatco, much more the lease agreements it is peddling to them, at least until Piatco can settle the controversy over its contract.

It is under review by the Canlas committee, which is reviewing the review done by Gloria Tan Climaco who reviewed the Neda review of the original Piatco contract.

* * *

IT'S not even because the airlines are asking for at least six more months to build their offices in the terminal, and so why do they rush the "soft opening?"

The real problem is, Piatco has nobody to run the terminal for. The German firm Fraport already gave up on Piatco as partner. Nobody can blame Fraport, actually.

Anyway, my info is, to woo the international airlines to move over soon, Piatco is looking for another German firm to operate the terminal. How funny is that?

Fraport actually put up 96 percent of the cost to build Terminal 3, and Piatco, 4 percent. And here comes Piatco, working to give the project to Fraport's competitor.

* * *

BUT to me, the real issue here is not the "soft opening." The issue here is the money. Where did it go? The terminal already cost $550 million, and it is not even finished.

Yet, as my source in the Cabinet said, this cute administration will not go for an audit of the project. I thought it was the only way to find out where the money went.

No audit is forthcoming, I tell you, despite the indirect "guarantee" to which, thanks to changes in the original Piatco contract, the government is now exposed.

Again, there will be no audit. Even if, at the end of the day, we, the public, pay for all of it? Even if we all run out of television soap!

* * *

IF you think traffic is terrible, just you wait four years from now. I refer you to that famous study done by a Japanese group on Metro Manila traffic.

I promise that you will curse the night, or probably the daytime, on the kitchen floor, your mother and father had fun, and nine months later, there you were.

The study says that by 2006, some 12,000 buses will come from the north into Metro Manila everyday. From south, we'll get a little discount at 11,000 buses.

By that time, nothing will move in the streets of Metro Manila anymore. This metropolis will be the world's biggest parking lot.

* * *

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Gokongwei had offered to buy from First Pacific its 25-percent interest in PLDT and 50.4-percent interest in Bonifacio Land Corp. for $616.6 million in cash (payable over three years) and assume the $109-million loan owed by Metro Pacific to Larouge. Based on a net saleable land of 12.5 hectares to 16.5 hectares, Gokongwei had value the Fort Bonifacio property at P39,000 to P50,000 per square meter or a premium over its acquisition cost of P33,000 per square meter.

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After Gokongwei's withdrawal, the Unilab-Ayala group remained interested in making a bid for the Fort Bonifacio property but at a much lower price than what was offered by the taipan.

During the launch of the Ayala Greenfield Estates project Thursday night, Campos revealed that Unilab had earmarked over P2 billion over the next 12 months to buy more property, preferably South of Metro Manila, and boost its land bank.

PCI Leasing STCPs renewed

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. for the renewal of the registration of its short-term commercial papers worth P250 million.

A publicly listed finance company, PCILFI, will use P150 million of the proceeds from the sale of the STCPs for relending and another P100 million for payment of maturing obligations or commercial papers.

Philippine Rating Services Corp. gave a rating of PRS 1 minus on the finance company's capability to pay both principal and interest on the STCPs.

The rating was based on PCILFI's improved operating results and margins, strong liquidity position, large absolute size of capital and conservative leverage position.

Philratings also noted that there was containment in level of problem assets, support from PCILFI's parent company, Equitable PCI Bank.

However, the ratings agency also noted that finance companies were still vulnerable to the still weak credit market.

The P250 million worth of STCPs will have a maturity of one year. The minimum purchase amount of each registered commercial paper instrument is P300,000. PCILFI principally provides leasing and financing products to commercial clients. On a selective basis, the company also provides loans to individuals, primarily through its employees' personal loans products.

Aboitiz group buys 20% stake in SQL Wizard

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ABOITIZ group has agreed to acquire a 20-percent stake in software service firm SQL Wizard Inc., the first and so far the only small and medium enterprise (SME) listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SQL Wizard said Aboitiz units William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. and Aboitiz One Inc. would each buy 10 percent from SQL Wizard's existing shareholders.

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The original and controlling shareholders of SQL Wizard—Alberto Hermoso Jr., Heraldina Salonga, Antonio Lasala, Enrique Pelaez and Hermegildo Hermoso—will dilute their combined stake to 60 percent from 80 percent after the sale. The remaining 20 percent will continue to be held by the public.

"The entry of the WG&A and Aboitiz is expected to be beneficial to the company because they are the key partners of the company in the development and maintenance of their major automated systems," the disclosure said.

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SQL Wizard was WG&A's partner in developing and maintaining its major systems. It developed the former's existing freight operating system, passage ticketing system, cash receipts system and claims system.

In a separate disclosure, WG&A said its acquisition of a stake in SQL Wizard would place the shipping firm "at the forefront of technology innovation."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	42,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	73,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	42	42.5	103,500
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	4,210
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	75,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	88,100
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil	18	18	18	18	35,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1020	1045	1020	1040	1,620
Sun Life Financial Serv	825	825	820	820	3,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	20,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38	3,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	435	435	430	430	4,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	11,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	6,500,000
Pldt	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	262.5	250	257.5	83,320
Philweb.Com Inc	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	29,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17	17	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26	25.5	25.5	380,800
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	106,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	350,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	120,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	512,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	176,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	31,300
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57	56	57	85,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp	5	5	5	5	634,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	132,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	3	3	42,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	3,070,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	12,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	3,000,000
Music Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	870,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
Unioil Res & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	18,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
[illegible] Corp	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	166,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	[illegible]
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	996,000
Araneta Properties Inc	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	2,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,288,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	96,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	3,615,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
OIL					
Alaska Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
South China Resources Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
[illegible] Ind'l	0.195	0.24	0.195	0.24	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	447,720	16,877,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,326,960	62,640,165.00
PRO	12,925,000	45,700,000.00
Mining	540,000	125,300.00
OIL	24,210,000	92,450.00
GRAND TOTALS	136,449,680	127,435,265.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	419.45	DOWN 0.26
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,464.13	UP 5.81
PRO	499.86	UP 15.74
Mining	1,100.46	UP 8.60
OIL	1.22	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	588.83	UP 14.88
Composite	1,072.19	UP 8.90

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 88; NO. OF TRADES: 1,077

DISCLOSURES

ISLAND Information and Technology Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 22 to Nov. 18, 2 p.m. at the Casino Español, Ermita, Manila.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 10,000 of its own shares at P31.5 per share.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. has advised the Philippine Stock Exchange that the stock certificates in connection with its property dividends have long been ready but cannot yet be delivered pending the issuance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the required Certificate Authorizing Registration.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures' latest unrestricted retained earnings reached P1.5 billion. The disclosure was made in connection with the company's buy-back last Oct. 10. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 11, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.014610	1.000000	52.7370
Japan	Yen	0.008204	0.008086	0.4264
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587054	1.564200	82.4912
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130083	0.128210	6.7614
Switzerland	Franc	0.683285	0.673446	35.5155
Canada	Dollar	0.638441	0.629247	33.1846
Singapore	Dollar	0.565999	0.557849	29.4193
Australia	Dollar	0.554886	0.546896	28.8417
Bahrain	Dinar	2.691989	2.653224	139.9231
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270563	0.266667	14.0632
Brunei	Dollar	0.566570	0.558411	29.4489
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023191	0.022857	1.2054
UAE	Dirham	0.276272	0.272294	14.3600
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.000801	0.0422
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985600	51.9776
Argentina	Real	0.275709	0.271739	14.3307
Brazil	Real	0.258895	0.255167	13.4567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.132688	6.9976
India	Rupee	0.210016	0.020713	1.0923
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267038	0.263193	13.8800
Mexico	New Peso	0.099676	0.098241	5.1809
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486413	0.479409	25.2826
Norway	Kroner	0.137302	0.135325	7.1366
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017212	0.016964	0.8946
South Africa	Rand	0.097653	0.096247	5.0758
Sweden	Kroner	0.109469	0.107893	5.6900
Syria	Pound	0.022955	0.022624	1.1931
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028980	0.028563	1.5063
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000691	0.000681	0.0359

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002

Soft opera

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ABOUT two months from now, on Dec. 15, this cute administration of Gloriaetta wants the Naia Terminal 3 to have a "soft opening."

No wonder, the holder of the controversial contract for the airport terminal, the one and only Piatco, is busy spinning some tales of woe. Well and good.

It's just that I'm not sure what "soft opening" really means. Perhaps it means the terminal is open, but then again, actually, you cannot use it yet.

The soft opening should offer a lot of photo-op. In this way, a "soft opening" is like soap opera. You know - the soapy soft opening is just a lot of drama.

* * *

RECENTLY, the congressional oversight committee, which has the "gang of four" in the House of Representatives, starring Rep. Jacinto Paras, held an executive session.

That should be an opening for Piatco, although it's neither soft nor hard, but just an opening, to do some more of its ever operational clever spin.

My info is, the PR machinery of Piatco, featuring its spokesperson Moises Tolentino, worked overtime to destroy Naia general manager Ed Manda.

Piatco whined to the congressmen against Manda. He would not support the terminal's soap, este, "soft opening." As expected, their hearts cried out for Piatco!

* * *

IT turned out that Piatco, and not the government outfit Naia, based on its contract with the government, was the one not living up to its promises.

Under its contract, for instance, Piatco should build infrastructure to support the terminal, such as its road links with, for instance, the domestic terminal.

In that secret, *este,* closed door session, Manda testified before the House committee that Piatco did not even start any of the infrastructure projects yet.

The Piatco contract, after all, was a BOT, a build-operate-transfer contract. The government was not supposed to spend a single centavo, not even a cross-eyed centavo.

* * *

YET the Piatco spin doctors are silent, mysteriously, on the huge expense of the government for this supposedly no-cost-to-the-government BOT project.

Based on secret estimates of this cute administration, to provide the Naia Terminal 3 at least a decent operation, the government must spend P10 billion.

That's about $200 million. Add to it Piatco's claim of $550 million for the cost of the terminal. We come up with $750 million. This is a BOT—no cost to the public! *Daw!*

Who then, pray tell, will shoulder such an amazing amount for a supposedly cost-free project? Wait, don't tell me! I think it's going to be . . . well, YOU!

* * *

ASIDE from the problem of access, I really think it's hard for the international airline passengers to use Terminal 3 by this December without the airplanes.

From what I hear, based on a memo from the Airline Operators Council, none of the international airlines are transferring to Terminal 3 until it is fully ready.

For one, the airlines are avoiding Piatco, much more the lease agreements it is peddling to them, at least until Piatco can settle the controversy over its contract.

It is under review by the Canlas committee, which is reviewing the review done by Gloria Tan Climaco who reviewed the Neda review of the original Piatco contract.

* * *

IT'S not even because the airlines are asking for at least six more months to build their offices in the terminal, and so why do they rush the "soft opening?"

The real problem is, Piatco has nobody to run the terminal for. The German firm Fraport already gave up on Piatco as partner. Nobody can blame Fraport, actually.

Anyway, my info is, to woo the international airlines to move over soon, Piatco is looking for another German firm to operate the terminal. How funny is that?

Fraport actually put up 96 percent of the cost to build Terminal 3, and Piatco, 4 percent. And here comes Piatco, working to give the project to Fraport's competitor.

* * *

BUT to me, the real issue here is not the "soft opening." The issue here is the money. Where did it go? The terminal already cost $550 million, and it is not even finished.

Yet, as my source in the Cabinet said, this cute administration will not go for an audit of the project. I thought it was the only way to find out where the money went.

No audit is forthcoming, I tell you, despite the indirect "guarantee" to which, thanks to changes in the original Piatco contract, the government is now exposed.

Again, there will be no audit. Even if, at the end of the day, we, the public, pay for all of it? Even if we all run out of television soap!

* * *

IF you think traffic is terrible, just you wait four years from now. I refer you to that famous study done by a Japanese group on Metro Manila traffic.

I promise that you will curse the night, or probably the daytime, on the kitchen floor, your mother and father had fun, and nine months later, there you were.

The study says that by 2006, some 12,000 buses will come from the north into Metro Manila everyday. From south, we'll get a little discount at 11,000 buses.

By that time, nothing will move in the streets of Metro Manila anymore. This metropolis will be the world's biggest parking lot.

* * *

YOU wonder thus what's keeping the government from doing all those mass transit projects. The MRT Line 7, for instance, is delayed.

It should serve the northeast portion of Metro Manila, running between North Avenue in Quezon City and the town of Tala in Bulacan.

You then connect its terminal to the North Luzon Expressway with a road, and you can provide traffic relief, aside from opening up a big area to mass transport.

Only one problem—some politicians are fighting it. My info is, they are pushing for another project, which was already "disapproved" by the government.

And so we just suffer the traffic!

Banks' bad loans down 1.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKS' bad loans dropped for the second straight month in August to 17.58 percent of their total loan portfolio, from 17.75 percent in the previous month.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the banks' bad loans dropped 1.81 percent to P280.62 billion, from P285.79 billion in July, due largely to increased foreclosure and restructuring activities of the banks.

As a result, their real and other properties owned or acquired grew by P3.82 billion to P175.67 billion or 5.61 percent of gross assets, while the current restructured loans swelled by P5.89 billion or a ratio of 7.89 percent of total loans.

The banks' total loan portfolio also dropped by 0.87 percent to P1.596 trillion in August, from P1.610 trillion in July.

Significant decline in loan portfolio was registered by foreign banks' branches here (P7.98 billion), private universal banks (P4.44 billion) and government banks (P2.11 billion).

Taking interbank loans out of the portfolio, the NPL ratio also slid to 20.19 percent from 20.44 percent in July.

The banks' NPL ratio is expected to further improve with a new BSP policy that took effect last month which excluded from the computation of bad loans about P45 billion worth of debts that have already been practically written off by banks.

While criticized by Standard & Poor's for encouraging banks to be less transparent, the BSP defended its new policy saying that the Monetary Board had imposed stiff criteria for loans with 100-percent provisioning to qualify.

Banks are also not allowed to remove even fully covered loans from their balance sheets. They can only take these loans out for the purpose of computing their bad loans, said the BSP.

The new ruling will neither affect the capital adequacy ratio of banks nor will it window-dress income or total assets, it added.

As of August, the banks' provision for loan losses increased by P650 million, raising the coverage ratio to 49.29 percent from 48.17 percent in July.

The ratio of the banks' bad assets to total assets also declined to 14.56 percent.

The revised definition of NPLs is expected to help bring down the level of bad loans on paper while the legislation that will provide incentives to Special Purpose Asset Vehicles or SPAVs is still pending in Congress.

Unilab bid for MPC stake in Fort Boni a 'calculated risk'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNITED Laboratories Inc. (Unilab) said it had made a "calculated risk" in bidding for Metro Pacific Corp.'s stake in the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City as part of the Philippine pharmaceutical giant's foray into real estate development.

Queried on whether his group considered Fort Bonifacio a good buy, Unilab chair Joselito Campos said: "It's a calculated risk but there might be a chance we could get it at the right price."

The Ayala group, Unilab's partner in the Ayala Greenfield Estates project, confirmed that it was joining forces with the Campos family in making an offer for MPC's Fort Bonifacio stake.

Ayala's Fernando Zobel refused to comment on the partnership claiming that all information had been fully disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange. Ayala lost to Metro Pacific in the bidding for Fort Bonifacio in 1995.

Unilab emerged among the prospective bidders for Fort Bonifacio as Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Inc. president Manuel V. Pangilinan looked for backers to his bid to thwart taipan John Gokongwei's takeover of the country's largest telecommunications firm and Fort Bonifacio.

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Philratings also noted that there was containment in level of problem assets, support from PCILFI's parent company, Equitable PCI Bank.

However, the ratings agency also noted that finance companies were still vulnerable to the still weak credit market.

The P250 million worth of STCPs will have a maturity of one year. The minimum purchase amount of each registered commercial paper instrument is P300,000. PCILFI principally provides leasing and financing products to commercial clients. On a selective basis, the company also provides loans to individuals, primarily through its employees' personal loans products.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, October 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	42,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	73,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42	42.5	42	42.5	103,500
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	4,210
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	75,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	88,100
Philippine National Bank	28	28	28	28	6,500
Union Bank of the Phil	18	18	18	18	35,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1020	1045	1020	1040	1,620
Sun Life Financial Serv.	825	825	820	820	3,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	20,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38	3,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	435	435	430	430	4,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	11,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	6,500,000
Piltel	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	250	262.5	250	257.5	83,320
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	29,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17	17	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	26	26	25.5	25.5	380,800
Petron Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	106,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	350,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	120,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	12,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	512,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	176,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	31,300
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57	56	57	85,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	5	5	634,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,650,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	132,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ionics Inc.	3	3	3	3	42,000
J.G Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	3,070,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.14	12,500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	3,000,000
Music Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.12	870,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	[illegible]00,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
[illegible]orro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	[illegible],000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	16,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
[illegible]orp	0.34	0.35	0.34	[illegible].35	
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	[illegible]
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	[illegible],000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	[illegible],000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PROPERTY					
[illegible]yala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	996,00[illegible]
Araneta Properties In	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
[illegible]ebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
[illegible]yber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	2,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,288,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	96,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	6,6[illegible]
MINING					
[illegible]epanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	[illegible],000
[illegible]epanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
[illegible]hilex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	[illegible]00,000
OIL					
[illegible]export Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	14,000,000
[illegible]riental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	[illegible]0,000,000
[illegible]he Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
South China Resources Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
[illegible] Ind'l	0.195	0.24	0.195	0.24	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	447,720	18,877,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	98,326,960	62,640,165.00
PRO	12,925,000	45,700,000.00
Mining	540,000	125,300.00
OIL	24,210,000	92,450.00
GRAND TOTALS	136,449,680	127,435,265.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc.	419.45	DOWN 0.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,464.13	UP 5.61
PRO	499.86	UP 15.74
Mining	1,100.46	UP 8.60
OIL	1.22	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	588.83	UP 14.88
Composite	1,072.19	[illegible]

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 44; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 88; NO. OF TRADES 1,077

Disclosures

ISLAND Information and Technology Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 22 to Nov. 18, 2 p.m. at the Casino Español, Ermita, Manila.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 10,000 of its own shares at P31.5 per share.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. has advised the Philippine Stock Exchange that the stock certificates in connection with its property dividends have long been ready but cannot yet be delivered pending the issuance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the required Certificate Authorizing Registration.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures' latest unrestricted retained earnings reached P1.5 billion. The disclosure was made in connection with the company's buy-back last Oct. 10. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Currencies

Oct. 11, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.014610	1.000000	52.7370
Japan	Yen	0.008204	0.008086	0.4264
United Kingdom	Pound	1.587054	1.564200	82.4912
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130083	0.128210	6.7614
Switzerland	Franc	0.683285	0.673446	35.5155
Canada	Dollar	0.638441	0.629247	33.1846
Singapore	Dollar	0.565999	0.557849	29.4193
Australia	Dollar	0.554886	0.546896	28.8417
Bahrain	Dinar	2.691989	2.653224	139.9231
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270563	0.266667	14.0632
Brunei	Dollar	0.566570	0.558411	29.4489
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023191	0.022857	1.2054
UAE	Dirham	0.276272	0.272294	14.3600
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.000801	0.0422
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985600	51.9776
Argentina	Real	0.275709	0.271739	14.3307
Brazil	Real	0.258895	0.255167	13.4567
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.132688	6.9976
India	Rupee	0.210016	0.020713	1.0923
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267038	0.263193	13.8800
Mexico	New Peso	0.099676	0.098241	5.1809
New Zealand	Dollar	0.486413	0.479409	25.2826
Norway	Kroner	0.137302	0.135325	7.1366
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017212	0.016964	0.8946
South Africa	Rand	0.097653	0.096247	5.0758
Sweden	Kroner	0.109469	0.107893	5.6900
Syria	Pound	0.022955	0.022624	1.1931
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.028980	0.028563	1.5063
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000691	0.000681	0.0359

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Temporary lifting of stock transaction tax eyed

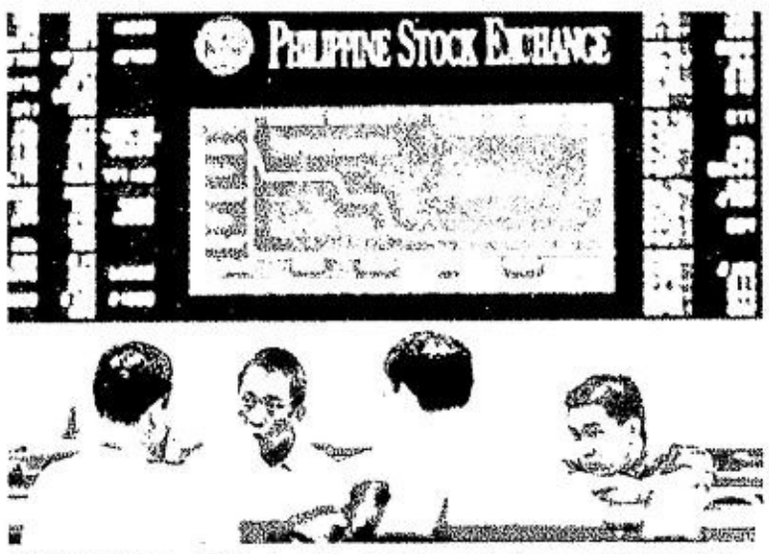
By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is pushing to temporarily lift the documentary stamp taxes on transactions in the equities market and has asked Congress to include the provision in pending bills on capital market reforms.

In a speech before the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Camacho said he has decided to reverse his stance on the lifting of DST on stock transactions to enliven the local market.

"I had initially opposed this inclusion since I believed the bill was aimed primarily at debt instruments. But I am now inclined to include it but only for the short-term and only as a temporary relief to the stock market in hopes of building the market's confidence," the finance chief stressed.

The government had asked Congress to approve the lifting of the DST on secondary market transactions as well as on the issuance of debt instruments. This measure is seen to improve the liquidity on debt papers and help develop a long-term market for such instruments.



TRADERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange talk among themselves during lackluster trading. AFP

Currently, the Philippines imposes a DST of P1.50 for every P200 par value of stocks being transferred.

"Of course, the factors affecting the stock market go beyond the DST and are really more a function of confidence levels and global events," Camacho said.

Stock prices worldwide are tumbling on growing concerns over corporate profits and the lingering impact of corporate scandals in the United States. Wall Street slumped to a five-year low the other day while Japanese and Korean share prices dropped.

In reaction, the local index sunk to a new 10-month low last Thursday.

Camacho said that the general sentiment of "gloom and doom" in foreign markets were actually making the Philippines look "like an oasis in the global desert."

"But our domestic market cannot grow or develop without investor confidence," the finance chief said. Part of building up the confidence is to put in place important legislative measures related to the equities and fixed-income markets.

Camacho told Finex members that aside from the lifting of the DST, the government has several pending legislative reforms aimed at improving the country's capital and financial markets.

One is the Securitization Act designed to promote the development of asset-backed securities. This piece of legislation is primarily intended to jumpstart the housing sector but is seen to extend to other assets that can be securitized like credit card receivables, loans to small and medium enterprises, and other financial assets.

The bill was already passed by the Lower House and is pending in the Senate.

The proposed Revised Investment Company Act aims to develop the mutual fund industry, which has remained in an infantile stage. The Personal Equity Retirement Account aims to encourage savings by providing tax incentives.

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DESPITE STOCK MARKET DROP

Bush team declares economy headed upward

WASHINGTON—Two members of President George W. Bush's economic team expressed confidence Thursday that the current recovery is in no danger of stalling despite the recent stock market swoon.

"It's not a rocket shot, but it's not terrible either," Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said of the recovery.

O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Don Evans said the president has not yet decided whether any new government stimulus measures are needed although Evans said Bush would sign a measure being pushed by House Republicans if it reaches his desk.

O'Neill and Evans met with reporters following the weekly

O'Neill

White House luncheon held by the president's economic team, a group under increasing fire from Democrats hoping to gain political advantage with voters worried about the uncertain economic recovery and the falling stock market.

Senate and House Democrats were staging their own economic summit Friday to highlight what they see as failings in Bush's management of the economy.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle told reporters Thursday that Bush should replace his current team of economic advisers.

"I think the American people would respond very favorably if they saw the president clean house, start over, do something of consequence to change the economic track we are on right now," said Daschle.

But Evans and O'Neill, at a separate news conference, said they believed the economy was recovering.

O'Neill stuck by his assessment that the economy would be growing at a solid rate of between 3 percent and 3.5 percent in the final three months of this year.

That view is at odds with the current forecast of private economists who have been cutting their fourth quarter growth estimates in light of a renewed drop in stock prices and mixed economic statistics.

But O'Neill said that private forecasters were overlooking the fact that the unemployment rate dipped to 5.6 percent in September while the average number of hours worked in a week increased, often a sign that businesses will soon begin rehiring laid off workers.

"We can characterize our situation as on the bumpy road to recovery," O'Neill said.

Asked why the stock market, normally an indicator of future economic activity, has been hitting new lows in recent days, O'Neill said he believed there was currently a disconnect between investor sentiment and the real economy that would correct itself.

"Over time, this economy is going to continue to be the envy of the whole world and the adjusted rates of return (on investments) are going to be higher than any place else in the world and those facts will be reflected in the capital markets," O'Neill said.

O'Neill said the administration continued to believe the best thing Congress can do to help the recovery would be to pass a pending terrorism insurance bill that he said would allow more than $15 billion in stalled construction projects to go forward, providing employment for 300,000 workers.

Developers have contended that many building projects have been stalled because they can't get insurance coverage against the risks of terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. *AP*

US jobless claims fall, retail sales slow

WASHINGTON—Shorter unemployment aid lines were not enough to convince analysts on Thursday the US labor picture was improving, while anemic September sales reported by American retailers fanned consumer spending fears.

The Labor Department said on Thursday that the number of Americans signing up for state unemployment aid fell by 40,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 384,000.

While last week's drop in claims was bigger than expected, the four-week average—regarded as a more reliable gauge of employment conditions—hovered above the 400,000 level that analysts regard as a sign the job market is still floundering.

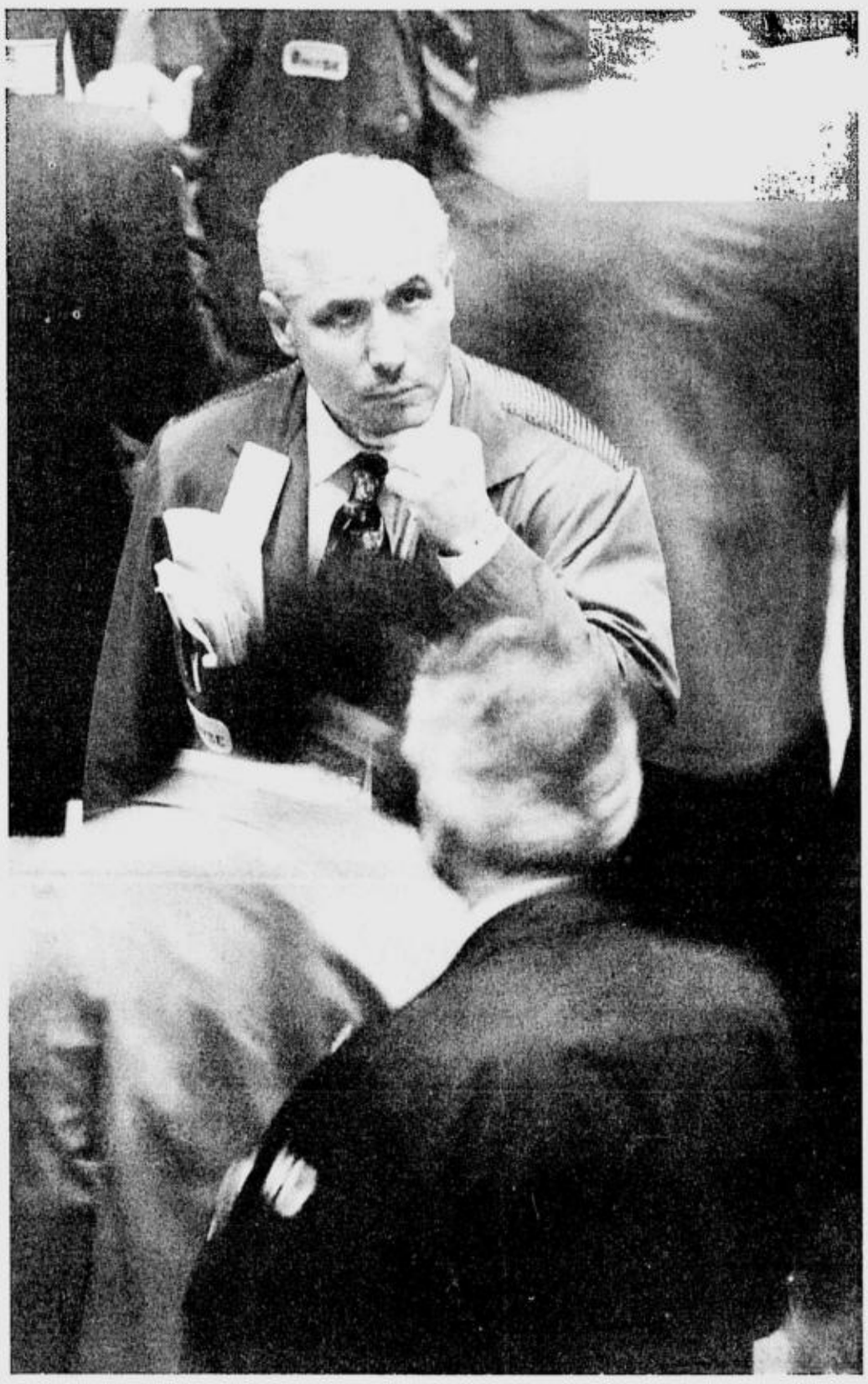
"I have mixed emotions. You need to see one or two more weeks of below 400,000 numbers before you can say things have gotten better or stopped deteriorating," said Steve Ricchiuto, chief US economist at ABN AMRO.

Overall, the numbers did little to sway analysts from their view that the labor market is unlikely to show significant improvement until next year and negative news from the retail sector front reinforced concerns about the economic recovery.

A sluggish recovery, battered stock market and fast-eroding consumer confidence drove down sales at US retailers last month, retailers said on Thursday.

Stock markets, hammered to multi-year lows over the past several weeks, turned a blind eye to those fears, and staged a sharp rebound.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average surged nearly 248 points, or 3.4 percent, after briefly touching a new five-year low while the Nasdaq composite soared more than 49 points, or 4.4 percent, by the close. *Reuters*



ACTIVITY swirls around a trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as he stops to look at the early numbers. The Dow Jones Industrial Average continued its recent volatility, falling lower, then moving sharply higher in early trading. AFP

Activity back in US ports

OAKLAND, California—Ports on the west coast of America creaked back to life, but resentment simmered as managers watched for slowdowns and dockworkers accused them of looking for an excuse to drag the dispute back to court.

The Pacific Maritime Association spent the day poring over data from shipping companies and terminal operators at the nation's 29 major ports in Washington, Oregon and California, looking for any sign of slacking on the part of the dockworkers.

A spokesperson for the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping lines and terminal operators, first described work as "adequate," but as Thursday wore on, was more pessimistic, saying the pace had become "sluggish."

"We're certainly not where we wanted to be today," association spokesperson Steve Sugerman said. "We're hoping to see improvement tomorrow."

The 10,500 dockworkers began returning to their jobs Wednesday after President George W. Bush obtained a court order ending the 10-day shutdown that caused cargo to pile up and cost the US economy as much as $2 billion a day. *Reuters*

2 Ex-WorldCom execs plead guilty to fraud

NEW YORK—Two former WorldCom Inc. middle-level managers pleaded guilty to securities fraud on Thursday, becoming the third and fourth executives to implicate superiors and help in the government's probe of massive accounting fraud at the telephone giant.

WorldCom, the No. 2 US long-distance telephone carrier and one of the world's leading movers of Internet traffic, filed for bankruptcy in late July amid accusations of accounting fraud.

Betty Vinson, 47, and Troy Normand, 35, both of Madison, Mississippi, pleaded guilty to one count of securities fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud in Manhattan federal court.

Their plea deals include an agreement to cooperate with prosecutors.

Both defendants are certified public accountants who worked in WorldCom's general accounting department and assisted in the preparation of financial documents.

Also on Thursday, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed a related civil case against Vinson and Normand.

Although the two were middle-level managers, their information is expected to help prosecutors build a case against WorldCom's former chief financial officer Scott Sullivan, who has been indicted on fraud and conspiracy charges. He has pleaded not guilty to the allegations.

Prosecutors have said previously that the investigation is continuing and others could be charged in the scheme.

Both Normand and Vinson said during their plea hearings they had been ordered to falsify WorldCom financial records by their supervisors in order to inflate WorldCom earnings to meet Wall Street's expectations and mislead the investing public.

During their separate hearings, the two gave similar descriptions of their crimes and both stated "I was very concerned about being ordered to make the adjustments." *Reuters*

BOJ leaves monetary policy steady

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan left its monetary policy unchanged on Friday, as expected, but it kept financial markets on their toes as they waited for it to publish a report that could set off tougher government action on banks' bad loans.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa had earlier called for the central bank to ease policy but analysts said the BOJ was waiting to see what the government came up with in its promised action plan on the banks.

"The Bank of Japan obviously wants to wait for the government plan, which will be clarified by the end of this month," said Tomoko Fujii, senior economist at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney.

"Given the recent rapid decline in stock prices, they should have moved this time, but they tend to be 'too little, too late' and so it's not surprising."

Other analysts were also critical of the central bank's wait-and-see stance, particularly as concern mounts about the mass bankruptcies that could result from bank sector reforms. *Reuters*

United stocks fall to 40 yr low

CHICAGO—United Airlines' stock fell to a more than 40-year low Thursday on escalating fears of bankruptcy as the cash-crunched airline runs short of time to reach a needed multibillion-dollar agreement with its unions.

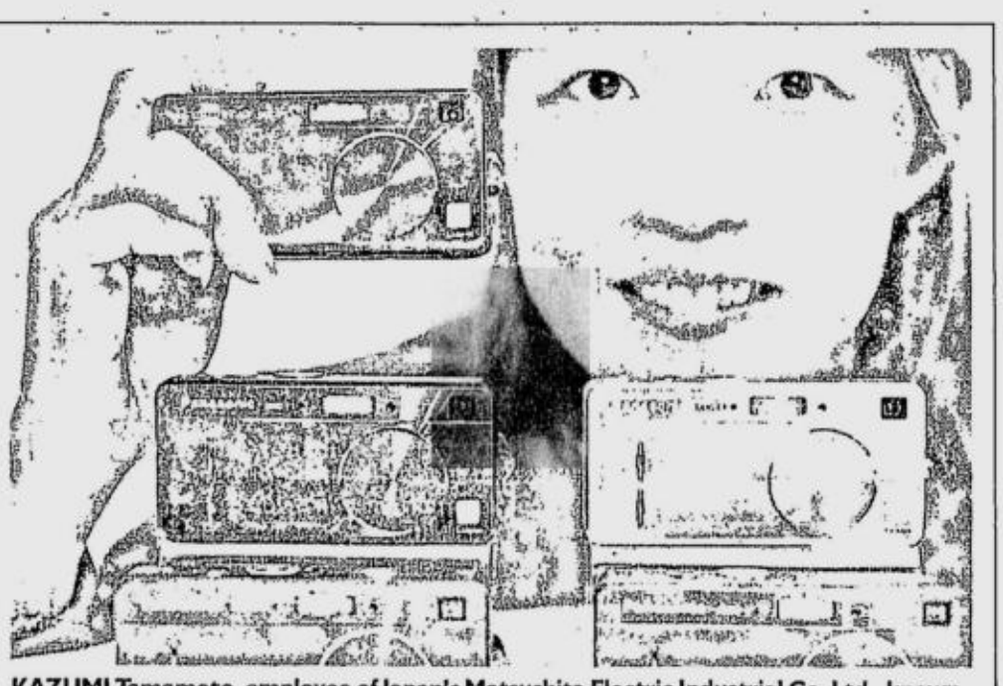
Analysts said the likelihood of a fall bankruptcy filing had increased as a result of new signs of labor resistance to steep cutbacks, including a statement by the machinists' union that "cost reduction does not necessarily mean pay cuts."

Shares in United parent company UAL Corp. sank 11 cents to close at $1.76 on the New York Stock Exchange after dipping as low as $1.51. The closing price was the lowest since at least July 1962, according to the University of Chicago's Center for Research in Security Prices.

In a statement Thursday, United lauded its unions for working cooperatively and said the company is progressing on its recovery efforts.

But at least two Wall Street analysts issued notes to investors saying the machinists' move to negotiate separately with United instead of acting within the all-union coalition signaled a further and potentially critical snag in talks, even if the sides disputed it.

"The apparent splintering of the union coalition lengthens the odds against United reaching agreement with labor in time to avoid a bankruptcy filing before large debt payments come due on Nov. 17 and Dec. 2," said Phillip Baggaley of Standard & Poor's Corp. *AP*



KAZUMI Tamamoto, employee of Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., known for its National and Panasonic brands, shows off its new digital still camera DMC-F1 of the Lumix series during a press preview in Tokyo. The digital camera is equipped with 3x Leica DC zoom lens and 3.2-mega-pixel CCD. The company will put the new product on the domestic market from Nov. 22 at an estimated price of 50,00 yen ($400). AFP

Accord to curb Wall St. 'abuses' may sweep up innocent parties

NEW YORK—As attorneys and regulators huddle to reach a potential broad settlement to correct abusive Wall Street practices, some firms may have to bite the bullet to preserve the integrity of the securities industry.

Firms such as Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., Citigroup Inc. unit Salomon Smith Barney and Credit Suisse First Boston have been accused for specific wrongdoings, including biased stock research and improper stock allocation schemes.

Other firms, like Bank of America Corp., Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and UBS Warburg have stayed out of the spotlight.

While that is no indication of their innocence, firms that have done nothing wrong may be forced to comply for appearance's sake.

"We're relatively new in the investment banking business and essentially missed the tech bubble," Ken Lewis, chief executive of Bank of America, told Reuters last week. "We missed a lot of subsequent pain as a result of that."

But it may not matter, as all firms could be swept into a broad settlement.

That likelihood increased last week when the US Securities and Exchange Commission teamed up with New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer to probe Wall Street.

They are looking into the potentially conflicted relationship between stock analysts and investment bankers, and also the practice of "spinning;" when bankers offer Initial Public Offering (IPO) shares to company executives as a bribe for sending investment banking business their way.

"Any regulatory changes as far as potentially separating investment banking from research, IPO allocation practices . . . would probably be adopted by the entire industry, even if some company doesn't appear to have had some problems in the past with these issues," said Sandler O'Neill & Partners analyst Jeffery Harte. *Reuters*

AIG to invest $3.6M in IT project in Manila

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AIG American General's decision to invest $3.6 million for the establishment of a worldwide business process-servicing center here has reaffirmed the Philippines' position as a choice offshore services provider.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II reported that the Philippines won out over other countries in bagging the AIG General contract, including India, the country's archrival in back room operations.

Roxas said the project would lend significant prestige and credibility to the Philippines in positioning itself as a business process outsourcing (BPO) and shared services hub. Among the business activities that are being outsourced by American companies are logistics, procurement, human resource, finance and accounting.

AIG General,the second largest life insurer in the world, is looking at putting up its facilities at the Philamlife Tower in Alabang which the American firm wants to be declared as an information technology zone eligible for perks granted by the Philippines Economic Zone authority. The project is expected to generate between 500 and 600 new jobs on its initial year.

Roxas said that AIG was attracted to the Philippines because of the country's workforce, which has been rated as technically proficient in computer science and programming and familiar with US business processes such as the GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) and industry-specific knowledge like medial terms for transcriptions.

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10 October 2002, Makati City.

Ramon F. Aviado, Jr. (Sgd.)
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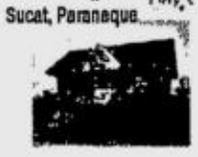

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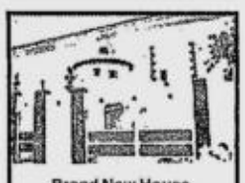

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Applicants are requested to send their resumé to:

J.O.S. Managing Builders, Inc.
1045 Aurora Blvd., Q.C.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAIDISITO JUAN LANSANGAN was extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No.415, Page No. 58, Book III, Series of 2001 under Notary Public Cesar T. Verano of Quezon City (PDI-Oct.5,12&19,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses Concordia P. Portacio & Esteban M. Portacio had been the subject of Deed of Extra-Judicial Partition w/Waiver of Rights among their heirs on April 4, 2002, as per Doc. 36, Page 9, Book III of Notary Public Ernest S. Ang Jr. of Q.C. PDI-Sept. 28. Oct. 5, 12. 2002

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LET THE PUBLIC KNOW THAT **MR. PHILIP BEDFORD** HAS AN OUTSTANDING STORAGE FEE OF Php 130,000.00 TO MAGELLAN'S GALLEON MARINE, INC. LOCATED AT LOT 14, ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, OLONGAPO CITY. IF NOT PAID BY THE AFOREMENTIONED OR HIS AGENT WITHIN 7 DAYS FROM TODAY'S DATE, GOODS WILL BE USED.

(PDI - Oct. 12. 2002)

dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry is inviting DOH Accredited/ Registered HealthCare Maintenance Organization to bid for:

Program Title	:	**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**
Period	:	**JANUARY 1, 2003 to DECEMBER 31, 2003**
Coverage	:	**NATIONWIDE**
Premium Rate	:	**PRINCIPAL MEMBER Php 4,000 per annum DEPENDENT MEMBER Php 910 per quarter**
Number of Employees	:	**AT LEAST 3,000 EMPLOYEES**

Interested Representatives/Bidders should be at least the 2nd highest ranking official of the HealthCare Maintenance Organization/System Provider and may request for a detailed TERMS OF REFERENCE, Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation c/o the Director, General Administrative Service, 4th Floor Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. **890-4947** Fax No. **899-5576**. Terms of Reference are available on **October 14, 2002**. All eligibility documents should be submitted at 2:00 p.m. of **October 21, 2002** at the above address.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **ARMIN B. RAQUEL-SANTOS**
Chairman, DTI-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE
MUNICIPALITY OF GIGAQUIT
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 12, 2002
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under **Contract No. RI WS 02 448 04 GIG-SDN** for the **Construction of Brgy. Mahanub & San Isidro Water Supply System** located in Brgys. Mahanub & San Isidro, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Gigaquit and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP-WB invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-projects;

Description of the project: Construction of 1.00 unit water supply system

Item No.	Work Description	Quantity
I	Construction of Concrete pedestal	2.15 cu.m.
II	Trench Excavation	1,090.00 cu.m.
III	Transmission Pipeline	3,625.00 ln.m.
IV-A	Distribution Pipelines (Brgy. San isidro)	6,270.00 ln.m.
IV-B	Distribution Pipelines (brgy. Mahanub)	2,200.00 ln.m.
V	Construction of Ground Reservoir	45.00 unit
VI	Installation of Communal Faucets	32.00 units

Bid Security: P85,000.00
Bid Closing Date: November 12, 2002; 10:00A.M.
Sub-project duration: 120 C.D.

Minimum Equipment Required
One Bagger Concrete Mixer, Concrete Vibrator, Pipe Threader, Stake truck

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting October 15, 2002 8:00 A.M. to 5:00P.M. upon payment of a non refundable fee of two thousand five hundred pesos only (P2,500.00)

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on October 25, 2002 at 10:00A.M. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency and must be delivered to the office of the Municipal Mayor, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on November 12, 2002 at 10:00A.M. in the presence of participating bidders or representative who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume to obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the lowest evaluated responsive and complying bid.

(SGD.) **HON. ELVIRA A. EGAY, Ph.D.**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2002)

National Power Corporation
GENERATION COMPANY 1
GENCO-1

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID UNDER E.O. 40
AD NO. GENCO 1 2002-02

Bidding Date	:	**November 8, 2002**	-	**10:00 AM**
Pre-bid Conference	:	**October 24, 2002**	-	**2:00 PM**

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at 4th Floor Conference Room, National Power Corporation GENCO 1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

a. Duly licensed Individuals/Sole Proprietorship;
b. Partnership or Corporations;
c. Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors forming into a joint venture;
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

SOURCE OF FUNDING: FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID:

Inquiry No. 0111-011	(Supply of labor services, materials, consumables supervision expertise and provision of tools/ equipment for hauling and transport Fuel Oil from BTPP to BCFTPP and Diesel from BTPP to BCCPP)	2 jobs	P16,048,251.00
Inquiry No. 0208-020	(S/P for Clyde Sootblower Main Assy)	1 lot	8,000,000.00
Inquiry No. 0209-065	(SF6 Gas Service Cart)	1 unit	1,740,000.00
Inquiry No. 0209-066	(Supply, storage and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite, technical grade, for approx. eight-month open contract tentatively from Nov. 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003	500 MT	4,250,000.00

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained on the Procurement Section, Administration Division, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per Inquiry No. starting **October 14, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/ execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

HEAD OFFICE:
P.O Box 3589 Manila
FAX No 522-1434
Tel. Nos. 523-8461 to 70
E-mail: oic@i-manila.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Insurance Commission invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for building and ground maintenance (janitorial services) covering the following:

1. Eight (8) janitors at least four (4) females.
2. One (1) male gardener

The above should be in uniform and equipped with complete cleaning tools. materials and supplies. At the same time, they should be bonded.

The invitation is open to all qualified bidders with the following pre-qualification requirements to be submitted on or before **October 21, 2002**:

a. Registration from the Domestic Trade
b. Municipal License to Operate
c. Certificate of Clearance from SSS
d. Certificate of Clearance from the National Labor Relations Commission
e. Registration Certificate issued by the BIR
f. Certificate of Filing of Articles of Incorporation with the SEC for corporations and Articles of Partnership for partnership.

For clarification purposes, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 14, 2002** at 1:30 p.m., Function Room, Insurance Commission Building.

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on **November 28, 2002** at 12:00 noon and bids shall be opened at 1:30 p.m. of the same date at the Function Room.

For inquiries, please contact Mrs. Cresencia R. Gatchalian at telephone nos. 524-3548 and 523-8462 to 70.

The Insurance Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any formality therein.

(Sgd.) **JULIA C. DUEÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. MALINIS**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI – Oct. 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

HEAD OFFICE:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-1434
Tel. Nos. 523-8461 to 70

INVITATION TO BID

The Insurance Commission invites eligible bidders to submit bids for the security of the office and its premises covering eight (8) licensed uniformed security guards with duly licensed sole arms.

All of the above should be duly bonded and to serve on three (3) shifts basis within twenty-four (24) hours including Sundays and Holidays.

The invitation is open to all qualified bidders with the following pre-qualification requirements to be submitted on or before **October 30, 2002**:

a. Certificate of Registration of Business Name with the Department of Trade and Industry
b. Certificate of Filing of Articles of Incorporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission in case of corporation
c. License to operate issued by the Office of the Chief Philippine National Police
d. Mayor's Permit of the locality
e. Certificate of Clearance from the Social Security System
f. Certificate of Clearance from the National Labor Relations Commission
g. Certificate of Registration/Membership, PADPAO
h. Registration Certificate issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue
i. An undertaking to pay the workers at least the minimum wage and to comply with the SSS law on compulsory remittance of SSS premiums.

For clarification purposes, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 13, 2002** at 1:30 p.m., Function Room, Insurance Commission Building.

Deadline for submission of sealed bids is on **November 27, 2002** at 12:00 noon and bids shall be opened at 1:30 p.m., Function Room, Insurance Commission Building.

For inquiries, please contact Mrs. Cresencia R. Gatchalian at telephone nos. 524-3548 and 523-8462 to 70.

The Insurance Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any formality therein.

(Sgd.) **JULIA C. DUEÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. MALINIS**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI – Oct. 12, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENERATION COMPANY I
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 527-4880-82
GENCO I-2002-004 (PBD)
GENCO-1

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED WASTE OIL AND ASSORTED SCRAP MATERIALS LOCATED AT ABB-BCCPP, BATANGAS COAL-FIRED, TPP MALAYA GT & GENCO I PORT AREA
"AS IS WHERE IS"

Date of Bidding: October 25, 2002 **Time of Bidding: 2:00 PM**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	NPC FLOOR PRICE
1.	**ABB-BCCPP**		
	• Used Fuel Oil from Oil Pit OWS "B"	More or less 61,120 liters	P 2.30/liter
	• Oil sludge/Residue from FOTP "B"	More or less 6,463.33 liters	
2.	**BCFTPP**		
	• Used Batteries	More or less 107 pcs	P55.00/pc.
	• Used Conveyor Belts	More or less 8,222 kgs.	5.10/kl.
	• Used Tires		
	c. Bobcat Tires		
	d. Tires	More or less 103 pcs.	BEST OFFER
		More or less 168 pcs.	50.00/pc.
3.	**MALAYA GAS TURBINE**		
	• AUV Fastrak (1993 Model) Plate Nos.: SDN-675 and SDP-539	One (1) lot	P40,230.00/lot
4.	**GENCO I**		
	• NISSAN SENTRA Plate No.: PPS-872	One (1) lot	P39,400.00/lot

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on **October 25, 2002**. Sealed bids will be publicly opened on the scheduled date at GENCO I Bidding Room, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) PERCENT OF TOTAL BID OFFER.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2001) OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY.**
3. **REQUEST FOR INSPECTION AND BID FORMS AT P50.00 PER SET MAY BE SECURED FROM THE WAREHOUSE SECTION — ADMINISTRATION DIVISION AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS AND INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE STATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS. LIKEWISE, REPRESENTATIVES MUST BRING WITH THEM WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTING. DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF BID FORMS IS ON OCTOBER 24, 2002. THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT/ REJECT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAYBE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ITS INTEREST.**

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Department Manager
Professional Services-GENCO I

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding for the supply, fabrication and delivery of ergonomic chairs and conference tables for the use of Anti-Money Laundering Council Office, 5/F, EDPC Bldg. per BSP specifications.

Interested bidders must submit photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes), **not later than OCTOBER 25, 2002** to the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 213, 2/F, 5-Storey Bldg. corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sts., Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos: 5248229/5252493.

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2001 duly Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement);
3) Business Licenses/ Permit;
4) Year 2001 Income Tax Return; and
5) Sample of ergonomic chair for evaluation purposes.

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised. Bidding documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Director

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: October 10, 2002
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/262002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of School Furniture to Selected Elementary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education (DepEd), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture.

Province/Item	Quantity	
	Desk	Armchair
Ifugao	1,543	3,924
Antique	9,337	6,262
S. Leyte	4,656	8,060
Agusan del Sur	3,281	17,528
Cotabato	5,633	5,249
Zamboanga del Sur	8,682	12,576
Total	33,132	53,597

Project or delivery sites are the District Offices located in 6 provinces under the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). A bidder may submit a bid for any or all of the items indicated above.

3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution and delivery of school furniture to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019, Fax No. (632) 636-6543, http://www.deca.gov.ph
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 14, 2002 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).
6. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement Under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits. and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 2:30 p.m. on November 26, 2002 and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two (2) percent of the total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:30 p.m. on November 26, 2002 at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on November 12, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 12, 15 & 19, 2002)

FUNERARIA QUIOGUE
MAIN: 67 Pasig Blvd. Ext., Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-7909 • 641-1735
BRANCH: 542 M. Almeda Street, Pateros Tel. Nos. 642-3010
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PROMPT, RELIABLE and PERSONALIZED SERVICE

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YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director.

Paz Acuña de Tuason

Falleció apaciblemente en la gracia de Dios
a la edad de 84.

D.E.P.

Sus sobrinos y sobrinas, familiares y amigos ruegan una oración por el reposo eterno de su alma.

Sus restos descansan en Mt. Carmel Church, Quezon City.

El entierro tendrá lugar en Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina el diá 13 de Octubre de 2002 después de una Misa funeral por su eterno descanso que se celebrará en el mausoleo familiar a las 12:00 del medio dia.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

Go Chiao Tee Vda. de Yao

(Mother of the Directors)

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 10, 2002
at the age of 91
(February 01, 1912 - October 10, 2002)

Sobien FOOD CORPORATION
HOME Sweet HOME Chain Store
Sosan Industries, Inc.
K & E industries, Inc. *Le Croissan Bakeshop*

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz (New Building) Superior Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, 1:00 P.M. at the Chinese Cemetery, Manila

Business is closed on October 16, 2002

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Mama

Lydia C. Diosomito

June 13, 1926 - October 12, 2001

On the occasion of her First Death Anniversary We request your prayer for our dear mother, our guide, our moving spirit. Her boundless love, selflessness and generosity of spirit will always live in our hearts and minds.

Eucharistic celebrations will be offered today at the following:

Diosomito Residence, Naic, Cavite ..... 11:00 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Naic, Cavite ..... 6:30 a.m.
Sto. Niño de Ternate Parish, Ternate, Cavite ..... 6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Maragondon, Cavite ..... 12:00 noon
San Isidro del Labrador Parish, San Roque, Naic, Cavite ..... 7:30 a.m.
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish; Carmel III, Quezon City ..... 6:30 a.m.
St. Vincent Parish, Tandang Sora, Quezon City ..... 6:30 a.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Trece Martires City ..... 8:00 a.m.

Her children **Boyeth & Tes, Leilani & Fedy, Nelson** and **Tess**; grandchildren and relatives, request the pious readers to continue praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kalinaya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782
102 years

WILLEM BERNARD DEN TOOM

of Makati City and Netherlands

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 23, 2002 in France at the age of 65.

A tribute will be given in his memory at The Metropolitan Club, Estrella corner Amapola Streets, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City, on Monday, 14 October, 6:30-9:30 PM.

His loving wife **Marilyn** and son **Willem Jr.** request the pious readers to please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

ANTONIO SUZARA VILLA-REAL

Professional Mechanical Engineer
Formerly employed in Edward J. Nell, Manila,
York Shipley and Kewanee Boilers, U.S.A.

Peacefully passed away at the age of 72 on April 19, 2002 at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village, Illinois, USA.

His remains were cremated at the Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory.

Interment on October 12, 2002 at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.

His bereaved devoted wife **Fe** (nee **Umale**); daughter **Thilda**; son **Antonio Jr.**; son-in-law **Dr. Bob Long**; grandsons **Steven** and **Benjamin**; brothers **Felipe** and **Lucio**; sister **Rose V. Viray**; in-laws, cousins, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request a prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED MOTHER

Go Chiao Tee Vda. de Yao

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 10, 2002
at the age of 91
(February 01, 1912 - October 10, 2002)

Her loving Children: Yao Ka Tieng (+) & Rosita Lao, Fely Sun Chua & Eddie Chua, Julian San & Poa An Ngo Vismanos, Alfonso So & So Ong Bian Bian, Nenita So (+) & Vinai Osothprarop, Rosa Sau Nam & Alexander Ngo, Leoncio Sau & Margaret Sy,

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz (New Building) Superior Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, 1:00P.M. at the Chinese Cemetery, Manila

Please omit flowers. Donations will be forwarded to charity.

In Loving Memory
of the **First Death Anniversary**
of

DR. BENJAMIN N. SAN BUENAVENTURA

"Dr. Ben"

who joined his Creator on October 13, 2001

His sisters, brother, foster brother Noli, nephews, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nieces, relatives and friends are offering the following Masses:

Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat *San Beda College*	October 12, 2002	7:00 AM
Malate Catholic Church *Malate, Manila*	October 12, 2002	7:00 AM 6:00 PM
Santo Domingo Church *Quezon City*	October 13, 2002	7:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park, Makati City*	October 13, 2002	7:45 AM
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	October 13, 2002	7:15 AM 6:15 PM
Abbey Our Lady of Montserrat *San Beda College*	October 13, 2002	7:00 AM 8:00 AM
Christ the King Parish *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	October 13, 2002	8:30 AM 6:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Parish *Pasig City*	October 13, 2002	7:00 AM 6:00 PM
St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish *UPLB, College Laguna*	October 13, 2002	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Sorrows *Dolores, Quezon*	October 13, 2002	8:00 AM
Parish of Saint Paul the First Hermit *San Pablo City*	October 13, 2002	7:45 AM
Carmelite Monastery *San Pablo City*	October 13, 2002	8:30 AM
St. Francis of Assisi Parish *San Francisco, San Pablo City*	October 13, 2002	5:30 PM

Please join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

ERRATUM

In the obituary advertisement of

SR. SUPT. ARNULFO NOBLES ESPIRITU

published in this paper October 10, 2002, deceased belongs to **PMA Class 1977** instead of PMA Class 1777 as published.

PABLO TIAMZON ANGELES

Former Vice Mayor of San Juan
Former Director of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 9, 2002 at the age of 72.

His loving wife FE; children GLENN & LEN, ALINA & ARGIE, ALERIS & JIMMY, ALELI & EDGAR, ALDO & MITA, ALICE & BOGIE, ANTHONY, ANA, and DEY; together with his 18 grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 13, 2002, Sunday at Funeraria Paz, Araneta, Quezon City at 4:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sanctuario del Santo Cristo, Kabayan, San Juan.

OUR BELOVED MISTAH

P/SSUPT ARNULFO N. ESPIRITU (DSC) PNP

PMA MASIKAP CLASS 1977

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 6, 2002 at the age of 49.

Survived by his wife **Nikki**; daughters **Cristina**, **Anna** and **Lee Ann**, and son **Robert.**

His body lies in state at Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Necrological services will be on Friday, October 11, 2002, 7:00 PM at Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002, 12:00 PM at Himlayang Pilipino.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Bajada, Davao City
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Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47 loc. 2101-2104/ 840-2024
Fax No. (632) 840-1459

PNOC The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

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Bid documents shall be available for issuance to pre-qualified and accredited contractors at the above address from the Operations Services Group starting **October 10, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (PHP 200.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Group not later than 2:00 p.m. of **October 25, 2002** at the above address and shall be opened in public thereafter.

For the purpose of clarification, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 18, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at the Bldg. I Conference Room of the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

RVOb/EAA

(sgd) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI-Oct. 12, 2002)

People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Smart rocks around and turns back the clock

PICTURE this: the Family Activity Center (Sports Lounge) of the famed Manila Polo Club transformed into a mini concert hall with candlelit dining tables in lieu of bleachers; a stage set reminiscent of the ones graced by the likes of Buddy Holly of yesteryear; a 5-man band taking the limelight of that impressive stage, clad in the trendiest of retro gear; and an eager toe-tapping crowd determined to party the night away...

And that's precisely what took place just recently when Smart invaded the Club along with Mobb Band, while club members and their guests welcomed them with open arms for a rockin' evening of '60s and '70s music. And how they were ready to party! Even though the gig was scheduled to start at 9 p.m., the nostalgic audience actually trooped to the Club for their trip down memory lane as early as 7 p.m! They were greeted by Smart representatives, proudly manning the Smart SIM Swap booth at the registration area. On offer was Smart's new 64K SIM, which happens to be the most powerful SIM available today, allowing users to access the widest range of value added services such as Smart Money and Smart zed— services exclusive to Smart subscribers. Shortly after getting the lowdown on this latest innovation from Smart, the guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner the Club had prepared for them. It was a choice between two set menus: either a complete hearty meal from soup down to dessert or a mouth-watering tapas selection.

Shortly before the band started, the Club's general manager Philippe D. Bartholomi was spotted mingling with the huge turnout of party-loving guests. Most were washing down the meal they had just savored with the finest *vino* the Club had to offer. Suffice to say, the crowd was now in full force party mode and wasn't ashamed to show it. And Mobb Band gratefully obliged by opening their act with classics from timeless bands such as The Shadows, The Beatles and The Temptations. In fact, the whole atmosphere proved to be too much of a pleasant blast from the past that several diners ran the risk of indigestion by hitting the dance floor even before dessert was served! And clear your mind of any stuck-in-the-'80s-buttercup-meets-*lambada* illusions; these party people were out to prove that good ol' fashioned rock n' roll boogie is the mother of all dance moves!

But food, booze and music weren't all this cool September retro night was about. After all, how groovy can any event be without the thrill of a raffle? The grand prize was no less than a 3-day, 2-night stay for two at El Nido Resorts, Lagen Island in Palawan! And as consolation prizes, what better way to celebrate the full moon weekend than with Chinese moon cakes up for grabs! And another lucky winner would get to take home a bottle of Sonbrero Negro tequila— perhaps to help bring out the mariachi in him after inspiration from this talented 5-man band's astounding performance.

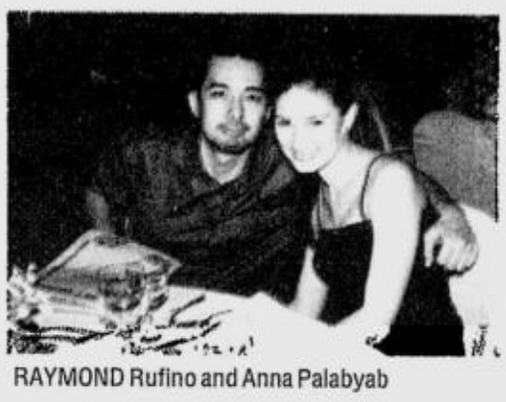
As the clock struck 12, it was time to call it a night as the band took a bow and the crowd filed out of the venue. And although this groovy, retro September night had come to an end, it was clear that just like Elvis "The Pelvis" Presley, the sounds of the swinging '60s and disco '70s are still very much alive today!

CHRISTINE Carlos and Frank Chavez

FULL Moon Weekend mooncake winner

MOBB Band

AIMEE Murillo and Mike Huang


RAYMOND Rufino and Anna Palabyab

SMART SIM Swap booth

Mr and Mrs Philippe D. Bartholomi, Manila Polo Club general manager

Scholarships for 50 shoppers

NATIONAL Book Store congratulates its Back-to-School scholars, the 50 grand prize winners of P50,000 cash scholarships. Out of hundreds of thousands of raffle entries, the following winners were drawn July 5: Emmanuel Marfori, Riza Palomo, Chris Noel Isagan, Ria Angela Manguiat, Rogelio Alamano, Editha Leonardo, Rosario Caranzo, Felix Chavez, Cely Evangelista, Genevieve Mae Aquino, Leonora Hichiwa,, Cassandra Zarco, Maricel Vendiola, Jacel Bulagnir, Judith Tango, Lalaine Altea, Vivien Estiva, Ruel Curib, Aya Czabrina Gonzales, Nenita Macaranas, Billy Famero, Annie Fernandez, Gilmore Baldevarona, Lynda Jocson, Alex Collado, Jose Estuar, Pacita Preglo, Anabelle Capistrano, Margarita Reyes, Armando Mariano, Priscillia Fajardo, Desiree Calamayan, Anita Espera, Amanda David, Evelyn Reece, Ireneo Geronimo, Leila Jane Narag, Juanito Co, Liza Latinazo, Ammie Pasatiempo, Danilo Cabusas, Lucita Santos, Leovina Gimeno, Vivian Natividad, Catherine Nebre, Leah Sunio, Lovely Danila, Elybert Villaluz, Trudel Sarmiento, and Gina Jona.

Consolation prizes of this back-to-school promotion include 50 Pentium III personal computers, 50 Palm Pilot M125s, and 50 DK World Atlas Millennium Edition. This first back-to-school tuition promotion is a celebration of the opening of the 50th National Book Store branch (the number has since increased to 51). National Book Store would also like to thank everyone who participated and made the promotion a tremendous success.

KUMON GOLD AWARDS FOR 2002

As one of the outstanding students of the Kumon Method of Learning, 8-year-old Michelle Baring Villanueva received a gold medal from Shigemasa Shinjo (left), president of the Toru Kumon Research Institute of Japan, and Kumon Philippines president Masumi Takahashi during the national Advanced Student's Roll (ASR) presentation at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The ASR is a list of the top 10 Kumon students who have exceeded the numeracy and literacy competencies expected of their current grade level. Enrolled at the Eleanor Esteban Learning Center (EELC) in Dasmarinas Village, Makati City since February 1998, Michelle, at 4th grade, is now doing Reading Level H (2nd year high school level) and Math Level G (1st year high school level). Shown with Michelle after the ceremony are (from right) EELC Kumon chief assistant Shelley Deakin, Michelle's parents Millette and Val Villanueva, and EELC Kumon instructor Christine E. Norton.

ST. JUDE CHEERERS IN CUSA

Last year's champion St. Jude College finished 2nd runner-up in the cheering competition held during the recent opening ceremonies of the Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) at the Araneta Coliseum. St. Jude College has campuses in Sampaloc, Manila and Dasmarinas, Cavite.

BITS Clips

'Four the World' quadruple treat

"FOUR the World" is the joint farewell concert on Oct. 12 and 13 of four choirs who will be hitting the international stage this October. They will perform in Korea and Australia alongside many other choirs from all over the world. The Mandaluyong Children's Chorus will render original avant-garde contemporary compositions. The Novo Concertante Manila is a community-based choir that will belie the myth that only university-based choirs are world-class. The San Beda College Chorale is as much an established institution as its college itself. These three choirs will compete at the World Choral Olympics in Busan, Korea. The Hiraya Men's Chorus performs at the famous Sydney Opera House, as part of an International Choral Festival. Catch both nights of this concert at the Philamlife Theater. This concert is being presented by Smart and Ipams. P200 tickets are available at the gate.

Hams, pasta desserts in seminar

A SEMINAR on Ham and Bacon Specialties to be held on Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), teaches techniques in processing and packaging different hams. Topics include quality control, costing, pricing and sourcing of materials. Products will cover sweet ham, square ham/pear-shaped ham, rolled ham, pork hamonado, chicken ham (whole, breast and legs). Resource person is Lourdes Rivera of the Bureau of Animal Industry. TLRC has also slated Pasta Desserts on Oct. 18, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Resource person is Virginia Pascual, who will teach participants how to prepare pasta recipes such as chocolate and nut bows, almond raviouli and raspberry sauce, apple lasagna, Indian milk pudding and chocolate spaghetti. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728 or at 637-4108 to 12, local 605.

Longines at Asian Games

REVIVING its long-time commitment to international sports, Swiss watchmaker Longines is once more stepping up to the limelight as one of the official timekeepers in the ongoing 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea until Oct. 14. Longines is handling time and score keeping in rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, swimming, synchronized swimming, diving, soccer, volleyball, baseball and horse show jumping. Longines will likewise highlight its strong dedication to elegance with the Longines Prize for Elegance to be given to the most elegant athlete in rhythmic gymnastics and the Longines Trophy for the best performing male and female athlete in artistic gymnastics. To commemorate Asia's biggest sporting meet, Longines has designated its Flagship model as the official watch of the event. And to keep spectators updated, the entire Longines homepage will be dedicated to the Asian Games.

Bay Gardens open house

REAL ESTATE developer Federal Land Inc. is inviting prospective buyers to a grand open house at the Anchor Bay Podium Deck of Bay Gardens, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests will be treated to a special "Family Day" lunch buffet for those who visit the showrooms. Bay Gardens is a luxurious, three-tower residential condominium strategically located in the heart of Metropolitan Park, a 40-hectare master-planned community in the Manila Bay area. Federal Land's portfolio includes Valencia Hills in San Juan and Quezon City and Oriental Gardens Makati located along Pasong Tamo near Buendia Avenue. To inquire about the special financing packages, call its marketing arm Omni-Orient Marketing Network Inc. at 810-4692 to 95 or 810-1944 to 45/fax 810-1943. Federal Land is a member of the Metrobank Group of Companies.

A real 'MTV' date

YOU COULD get cozy with one of MTV's VJs in the "MTV Mush" Get Close With a VJ Contest. Simply tune into "MTV Mush" on Sunday at 12 noon, Monday at 9 p.m., and Wednesday at 3 p.m., tell exactly how far you would go to spend a little quality time with your favorite VJ, and you could win a chance to go on a triple blind date with KC, Sarah, and Belinda. Just send your answer with any Close-Up carton to PO Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City, Philippines. The most creative answers will receive Close-Up gift packs and be entered into the grand draw where three lucky winners will win a romantic dinner with their dream dates. Contest closes on Oct. 13.

SUCCESSFUL COCO FESTIVAL

The country's first ever National Coconut Festival was successfully concluded Aug. 25 at the SM Megatrade Hall 1, Building B in Mandaluyong City, with keynote speaker Sen. Ramon Magsaysay and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor (left) in attendance. The 5-day festival was organized by the Philippine Coconut Authority, in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Maunlad na Niyugan Tugon sa Kahirapan Foundation Inc., which gathered coconut-based producers and entrepreneurs all over the country to showcase their products. The Coconut Festival was the highlight of this year's 16th National Coconut Week. The festival coincided with the grand dialogue media forum hosted by Radio-TV personality and former Caloocan City beauty queen and councilor Cherry Sarmiento (right) at SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall 1. In the forum, PCA Administrator Danilo M. Coronacion answered questions from the media pertaining to urgent issues surrounding the coconut industry today.

New members of the Met board

CAMPOS

SAMSON

THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila is pleased to announce the election of Joselito D. Campos Jr. and Antonio R. Samson as chair and president, respectively, of the Foundation for 2002-2005. Campos is board chair and chief executive officer of United Laboratories Inc. while Samson is executive vice president of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Meanwhile, Beatriz Zobel and Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga were elected trustees during the foundation's annual meeting held June 25. Other members of the board are Imelda O. Cojuangco, Rita Ledesma, Corazon S. Alvina, Lor Calma, Marixi R. Prieto, Dr. Lydia Echauz, Maricris Olbes, Maria Victoria Vasquez, and Josephine Labrador-Hermano. Lawyer Marivic Ramos-Anonuevo and lawyer Gener Sansaet of the Sycip, Salazar, Hernandez & Gatmaitan Law Offices remain the foundation's corporate secretary and assistant secretary, respectively.

Other new officers are Nelda Isuga-Sansaet, who was promoted to deputy director for administration, and Dr. Melgabal Capistrano, deputy director for programs.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

When the mind goes awry

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

THE HUMAN brain is the most complex organ in our body. It gives us the power to think, plan, speak and imagine. This truly amazing organ performs an incredible number of other tasks: controlling body temperature, blood pressure, heart rate and breathing, accepting a flood of information about the world around through the senses, handling physical motion when walking, talking, standing or sitting and letting you think, dream, reason and experience emotions.

All these tasks are coordinated, controlled and regulated by the brain and, with the spinal cord and peripheral nerves, they form a complex, integrated information-processing and control system of the body.

Although the brain weighs only about three pounds, it contains billions of cells (neurons) that form a network of "wiring" that is about 100,000 kilometers!

If a portion goes haywire or deteriorates, then we have a problem so complex that scientists and doctors have not yet fully understood.

Mental illness

The US National Mental Health Association defines mental illness as severe disturbance of behavior, mood, thought processes and/or social and interpersonal relationships. The most common types of mental illness include:

• **Personality disorders.** These are long-term problems in adjustment. People suffering from these might be described by one or more of the following: emotionally needy, inappropriately seeking attention, nonassertive, always getting into fights or trouble, volatile, unstable or having a problem with anger.

• **Affective disorders.** These are mood disturbances, usually indicated by profound sadness and noticeable changes in eating, sleeping and energy levels. Sometimes a disorder is indicated by sudden bursts of euphoria. Depression is the most common example. It is characterized by feelings of extreme sadness and dejection. Another type is bipolar disorder, which is another word for manic depression. It affects the functioning of the brain, causing exaggerated mood swings and having difficulty making decisions.

• **Anxiety disorders.** These are indicated by the presence of excessive fears, frequent complaints of body ailments such as headaches, stomachaches, dizziness and excessive nervousness lasting for weeks. These include panic disorder, excessive fears and posttraumatic stress disorder.

• **Psychotic disorders.** These can be indicated by gross deterioration in behavior from previous levels, extreme disorientation and extreme confusion. Common signs are confusion, hearing voices, excessive resentment and poor impulse control and behavior or habits that others regard as strange.

Schizophrenia may fall under this type. Symptoms include delusions, phobias, hallucinations and confused thinking. Approximately one in a hundred people will develop schizophrenia. Some may experience only one or more brief episodes, while for others, it will be a life-long condition.

Eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia may also fall under this type.

• **Avoidant disorder.** The individual is a loner who avoids peers for fear of rejection, embarrassment or criticism. This condition is sometimes mistaken for autism.

• **Paranoid personality disorder.** The individual is very suspicious of others and is quick to feel insulted and belittled. People with this problem may be volatile, stubborn, difficult to get along with, unreasonable and have a tendency to overreact.

• **Severe behavior problem.** These include self-injurious behavior, hyperactivity, extreme irritability and chronic aggression or antisocial behavior. Researchers have found that behavior problems are sometimes related to depression, paranoia, psychosis, underlying medical conditions or specific brain dysfunction.

Until now, scientists still do not know for certain what causes these mental illnesses. Most researchers believe that both biological and psychological risk factors are involved. Some disorders may be wholly or largely caused by biochemical and structural abnormalities in the brain.

Treatments available

Many people with mental illness find it difficult to get the help they need. Unfortunately there is no way of ensuring that this help will be available. According to experts, persistence usually helps and the following are worth a try:

Spend a few minutes talking with specialists or experts on the phone, ask about their approach in working with patients, their philosophy, whether or not they have a specialty. If you feel comfortable talking to the counselor or doctor, the next step is to make an appointment.

On your first visit, the counselor or doctor will want to get to know you and why you called him. He will want to know what you think the problem is, about your life, what you do, where you live, who you live with. It is also common to be asked about your family and friends.

If you don't feel comfortable with him after the first or even after several visits, talk about your feelings during your next meeting. Don't be afraid to contact another counselor. Feeling comfortable with the professional you choose is very important to the success of your treatment.

Extraordinary progress has been made in the last 20 years regarding the treatment of mental illnesses. There are many disorders that can be controlled or alleviated with medication.

But doctors have reported that there has been a tendency to overmedicate people with mental retardation and not to carefully monitor the behavioral effects of medications. Even when used appropriately, medications are only part of an effective total treatment program.

Getting a head start to a healthy mind

WHAT you give your child during his critical growing-up and preschool years could hold the key to his sound mind and body.

At this stage of a child's life, he needs different levels of vitamins, minerals and the right balance between carbohydrates, fats and proteins to ensure that he is able to maximize their physical and mental development.

This period—0 to 6 years—is when a child's brain grows at an astounding rate.

"This is the time when your child's brain growth is especially vulnerable to any adverse consequences of malnutrition. Research has shown that if the proper number of brain cells are not reached, a child's brain will not develop to its fullest potential," said Dr. Dolly Bustamante, a pediatrician at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

"This is a period of growth, where parents should provide their child with enough vitamins, calcium, iron and zinc that play an important role in enhancing brain development," the doctor added.

Drinking milk

Parents must not stop feeding their child with these nutrients even after 6 years. Maintaining a milk habit at this age onward is important because fortified milk is a good source of calcium, iron and zinc that children might miss out on if they don't eat a balanced meal.

Preschoolers have a very special set of needs. When they start school they will need nutrients that will help them learn faster and absorb the large amount of information they encounter.

In a tough and competitive world, the kind of food you give your children may give them the extra advantage they need.

Few parents might be aware of the benefits of DHA, or docosahexaenoic acid, a fatty acid that's a building block for the baby's brain and eye development.

"It has been shown in a number of scientific studies that the DHA is critical in early childhood development since creation of synapses in the brain happens extensively from the womb until the child is about 3 years old. Synapses are the neural pathways, where brain's electrical impulses pass through," explained Bustamante.

At the age of 2 or 3, a child reaches his peak synaptic development. As he grows older, he will also need DHA to improve and optimize the development of his brain. Add to this the fact that it has been shown that DHA can help improve memory retention and visual processing for children.

Naturally occurring

DHA naturally occurs in deep-sea fish such as sardines, salmon, mackerel, cod, halibut, herring, trout and tuna. "But since DHA is found in these types of foods, which most children don't readily eat, we must train their taste buds as soon as they are ready to eat, just like we do for vegetables," said Bustamante.

Although she can't give a fool-proof way of enticing a child to eat these foods fortified with DHA, she suggested that mothers prepare foods in a variety of ways. "One can incorporate fish in their pasta. Learn to prepare a dish in different ways."

Bustamante said there are milk products (like Enfakid) sold in the market today that are fortified with DHA, "which can also be a good source of DHA if all else fails."

Charles E. Buban

Malpractice bill anti-Filipino, anti-poor, say health workers

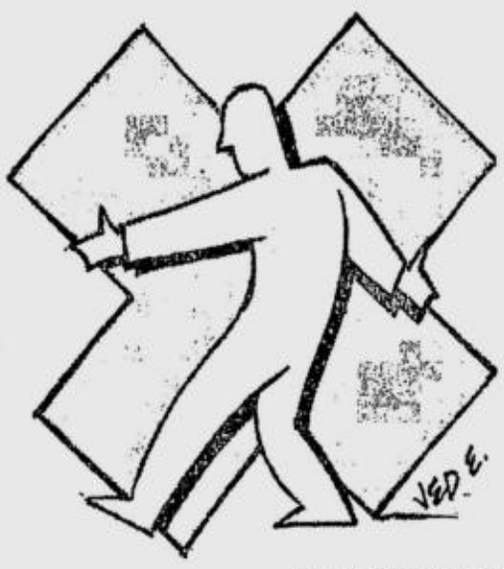


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

"WE ARE healers, not killers."

This was the chant of thousands of health workers who attended the information congress of the Alliance of Health Professional Organizations (Apho) last Sunday at the Ultra to denounce the medical malpractice bill.

Optometrist Charlie Ho said passing the bill would force medical practitioners to practice "defensive medicine."

Said Ho: "A patient could come in and complain about a headache, for example, for which there are about a thousand possible causes. We would be forced to rule out every possible cause to prevent a potential malpractice suit. This means referring them to hospitals for CT scans, MRIs and other expensive tests." "Who will foot the bill? Media? Lawmakers?" he asked.

"Eight in 10 optometrists are employees and make about P8,000 a month," Ho said. "If you force them to buy medical malpractice insurance at P75,000, how are they supposed to feed their families if they will not pass on the cost of insurance?"

Most health workers today receive salaries well below the poverty line and don't get benefits, said rural health nurse Sally Dagami. Yet many of them dedicate a great deal of their time and effort to doing volunteer work, going on medical missions to remote parts of the country, she said.

"Rural health workers are forced to practice medicine under difficult conditions, with inadequate supplies and equipment... Passing this bill will only discourage us from doing any more volunteer work," Dagami said. "Why would we open ourselves up to lawsuits by practicing medicine under those conditions?" she asked

Fewer nurses

Grace Valderrama, head of the 350,000-strong Philippine Nurses Association, said the bill, "instead of trying to improve working conditions for the heroic few who've decided to stay behind," would make nursing practice even more difficult in the country.

"If this bill is passed, many others will decide to leave. This bill can only worsen our brain drain problem," she warned.

"The national health budget is roughly equivalent to only about 40 centavos per Filipino per day," said dentist Aurelio Ramos. "We spend less than three percent of our national budget on health (and) government plans to cut the budget by another P500 million. Isn't that the biggest malpractice of all?"

"Passing this bill won't protect our citizens. In fact, no one wins except the insurance companies and troublemakers who are looking to make a quick buck," he said.

Dr. Minguita Padilla, Apho spokesperson, said that aside from being dangerous and irresponsible, the bill is also unconstitutional. She said if the bill was passed, the Philippines would be the only country in the world to criminalize malpractice, with a six- to 12-year sentence, which is equivalent to that for manslaughter.

"The Constitution offers equal protection to all citizens, prohibits double jeopardy and excessive fines," Padilla said. "But this bill singles out medical practitioners, leaving them open to double prosecution for the same offense—one under malpractice and another for reckless imprudence under the Revised Penal Code. It also imposes fines of P500,000 to P1 million. Why single us out? The bill doesn't even address quacks or people who practice medicine without licenses."

There are other pending bills in Congress that address the issues more responsibly and effectively, she said.

"We endorse in principle the Patients' Rights Bill and the Revised Medical Act of 2002, which regulates the licensing, education, ethics and actions of medical professionals," Padilla said.

"We can't help but wonder about all the drum-beating for this terribly defective bill and why those two other bills aren't being given the same support and publicity."

Johanna Garcia, contributor

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The malaria countdown

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

(First of two parts)

ON OCT. 3, a joint press conference was held in London and Washington, D.C. by the Nature and Science journals for a significant moment in the history of science. The genomes of the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum,* and its carrier mosquito, *Anopheles Gambiae,* had been published in each journal, respectively.

This meant that in the battle against malaria, with the human genome already sequenced, the humans had just gained a major advantage. Now researchers can start working on ways not just in preventing the mosquito from carrying the parasite around, but in making humans less susceptible to the disease as well.

Malaria is a disease that kills about one percent of the 300 million people who are affected around the world each year.

Mosquitoes carrying the parasite bite humans, and the parasite makes its way into the liver and eventually the red blood cells that accounts for the high fever and anemia associated with the disease.

A second mosquito biting the infected human then carries away some red blood cells infected with the parasite, which spends approximately two weeks growing in its host until it is transferred once again into another human body.

Not all Anopheles mosquitoes carry the parasite though (it's a female thing). Some are immune, and researchers are trying to figure out which genes cause immunity to ensure that the parasite isn't carried from human to human and to come up with a vaccine that keeps people malaria-free.

Spread all over the planet, malaria has become a tropical disease that can only be treated once someone is infected. There are four malaria parasite species which affect humans, but the main cause of malaria is the *P. falciparum parasite* (and that has been known for a century), hence the decision to sequence it.

Genetic engineering

The 20-year plan, developed in 1999, called for first getting the genomic sequences of the parasite and mosquito, then genetically engineering a mosquito by 2005 so it would be incapable of carrying the parasite, and conducting tests on releasing said mosquito into the wild by 2010.

By 2025 the word malaria might no longer be synonymous with mosquitoes, and people traveling to countries near the equator would no longer be warned about the disease or told to bring chloroquine tablets to ward against it.

For the last six years (although the Anopheles mosquito's genome took only three months to work out), scientists from several countries had been working on constructing these genomic sequences to work on malaria treatment and prevention at the genetic level. It seems only fitting that a disease which affects everyone had a mini-United Nations of its own to work on it.

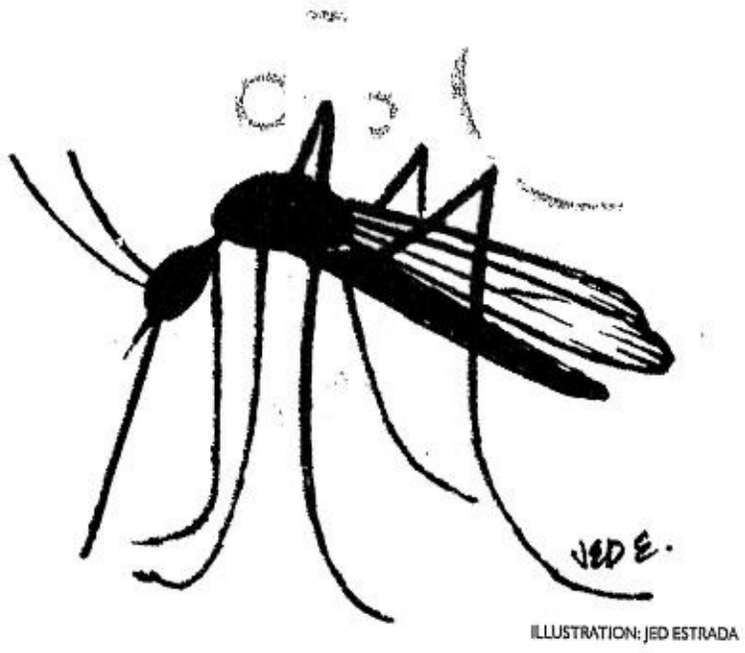


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Hundreds of scientists

Thirteen separate labs from the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom teamed up to sequence the plasmodium genome, which turned out to have 14 chromosomes, 5,279 genes and 23 million base pairs.

In contrast, the Anopheles mosquito genome with nearly 14,000 genes and 278 million bases was worked on by 19 different organizations from the United States, Israel, France, Spain, Germany, Greece, Russia, Italy, the United Kingdom and Canada.

With hundreds of scientists working on the project, it seems almost incredible that it took so long to obtain the necessary information. But, as British scientist Neil Hall said in a CNN interview, working on the malaria genome "was a bit like tearing up half a dozen bibles, scattering the pieces over a playing field and then trying to put them together again."

With these discoveries come increased funding in malaria research from both public and private sectors.

The data from the sequencing of the Anopheles mosquito's genome are also expected to be of help in treating and preventing other mosquito-borne diseases such as encephalitis, dengue and yellow fever.

Perhaps by the end of this decade people no longer have to fear being bitten by mosquitoes. But until then people will keep buying citronella candles and *katol*, and those lamps with neon-bright lights inside metal cages that make zzzt noises when mosquitoes fly right into them will remain on.

(Editor's note: Massie K. Santos has a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry from the Wesleyan University, Connecticut. She has interests in several fields and is co-author of a biology textbook for high school sophomores. She can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Glaucoma: common but still unfamiliar to most Filipinos

By Tessa R. Salazar

GLAUCOMA is the second leading cause of blindness in the country, according to the recent National Survey on Blindness conducted by the Institute of Ophthalmology of the University of the Philippines.

And a 1995 survey showed that it was the third most common cause of visual disability in the Philippines, affecting about 100,000 Filipinos. At the Philippine General Hospital, about 600 glaucoma patients consult at the outpatient clinic and the emergency room every month.

Open angle glaucoma is the most prevalent form after the age of 35. Occasionally, it occurs in children. Aside from hereditary factors, this condition is most common among people with diabetes and those who are nearsighted.

Closed angle glaucoma causes sudden attacks of increased pressure, usually in one eye. The space between the cornea and iris where fluid filters out of the eye is narrower than normal. Anything that causes the pupil to dilate—dim lighting, eyedrops or certain oral or injected medications—can cause the iris to block the draining fluid.

Treacherous disease

There is a pressing need to educate the public about glaucoma. A UP survey indicated that majority of Filipinos blinded by glaucoma did not know that they had it.

Dubbed a "treacherous" disease, the key to catching the ailment in its early stage is to have the eyes of people, especially those past 40 and with risk factors, checked.

But compounding the problem is the issue of choice: should an individual consult an optometrist or an ophthalmologist?

Dr. Norman Aquino, president of the Philippine Glaucoma Society (PGS), said many would choose an optometrist who would simply prescribe eyeglasses and would not be equipped or skilled enough to look deeper into the problem.

Risk factors

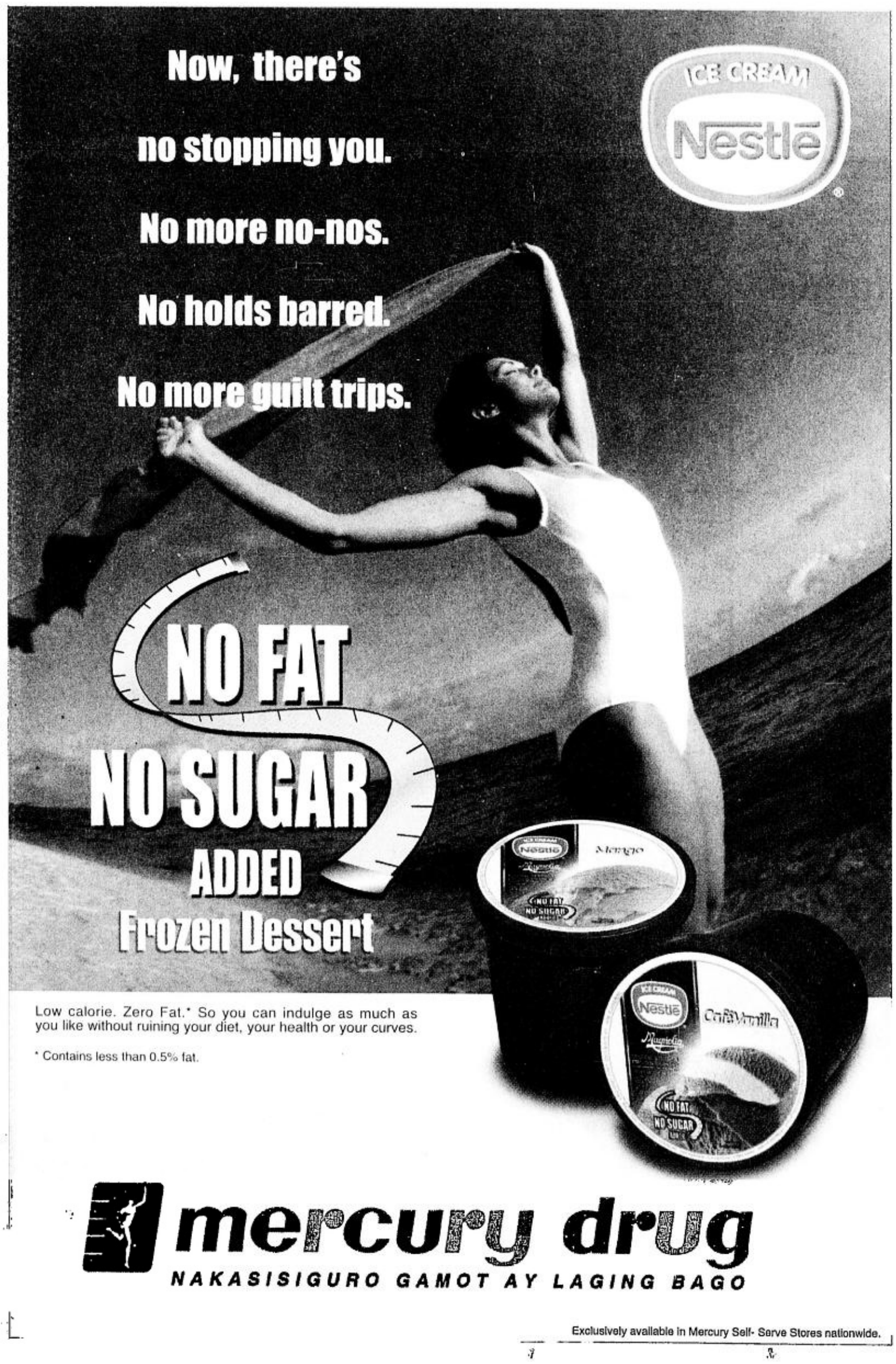
Risk factors for glaucoma include family history, diabetes, high errors of refraction and nearsightedness or farsightedness.

The PGS, Aquino said, conducts glaucoma screening in barangay health centers and hospitals. It is composed of 33 glaucoma specialists, most of whom were trained abroad.

Aquino noted, however, that almost all of the society's members are based in Metro Manila.

"The maldistribution has been a perennial problem," he said.

Dr. George L. Spaeth, a leading figure in ophthalmology who was in the country recently for a meeting of the Southeast Asian Glaucoma Interest Group, said the keys to successful care of glaucoma patients are concentrating the patients' symptoms, the appearance of the optic disc and what will likely happen in the future.



Arithmetic operations, anyone?

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ARITHMETIC is admittedly the least complex of the fields of math, yet it is the foundation of them all. Performing the four fundamental operations can be tricky, as illustrated by Franchita Alcausin's [mathfba@zobell.zobel.dlsu.edu.ph] query below.

"In all my years of teaching math I have never had a problem on PEMDAS until recently. I included this item in my exam: 25/5(3-5). Many students answered -2.5 even if we discussed in class exactly the same question.

"One student contradicted my answer of -10 because, as he pointed out, a calculator gave a -2.5 answer. A colleague agreed with the same argument because I used ( ) instead of *. He claimed that there is some rule saying that 5(3-5) is considered one expression because of the distributive property. Since I've never used a calculator before to solve such a simple problem, I got worried, more so because I have never heard of such a rule before.

"I posted the question in the math chatboard of teachers.net. Most of them answered -10. However, a number of the responses also said that it was my fault for not making the question clearer, i.e. (25/5)(3-5). I knew this all along but I purposely presented it that way because I wanted to check if my students understood it (as I said I gave exactly the same item to the class).

"Incidentally, I also used the "other" division sign [÷], not /. I was also informed that the TI calculator gives a -10 answer. My colleague, who agreed with the student, was still not convinced even when I showed him the result of the TI calculator, so he asked the math department of a certain university and their answer was -2.5, again because of the distributive property.

"My question is: What is the right answer? Although, I'm really convinced with the -10 thing, I need to hear from you."

PEMDAS rule

You are correct. -10 is the right answer. PEMDAS, by the way, is a simple rule which states that without any grouping symbols, the sequence of operations performed on a mathematical expression should be multiplication/division, followed by addition/subtraction. (This does not mean that multiplication always precedes division—whichever comes first in the sequence is done first; same with the other two operations.)

In this case, 25/5(3-5), we perform the operation within the parentheses first. The expression then looks like this: 25/5 (-2).

What are left? One division operation, then another multiplication operation. Since division comes first, we do it first. 25 divided by 5 gives 5, so the expression is now: 5(-2). Multiply the two numbers to give -10.

Why did many students, Ms Alcausin's colleague and the Math Department of a certain university get -2.5? Obviously, they first did 3-5, and got -2. Then they multiplied 5 and -2 to get -10. Division was last: 25 / -10 to get -2.5.

This is not correct. As stated previously, since division and multiplication hold the same priority in PEMDAS, what should be done first is the first operation in the sequence, which is division.

Distributive property

What about the distributive property? It can be applied to 5(3-5), but because of the preceding division operation, it may be said that not only is 5(3-5) one term, the whole expression, 25/5(3-5), is actually one term in itself. (This, of course, does not help us with the question at hand, and may even muddle the issue further.)

Any calculator will give the same answer: -10, as long as the operations are keyed in in the sequence that they appear. (Remember to do the subtraction in parentheses first, of course.)

I commend you for posting your query on the Net, and for writing to me. (Don't worry about the comments of your fellow Net teachers. The question you gave was quite clear and fair. I just hope your students listen more in class so they don't make basic mistakes.)

I hope other teachers follow your example, listen to their students, and consult their colleagues. Reflecting upon a possible mistake or clarifying points is not a shameful matter, and indeed, shows concern for student learning. God bless!

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

When medical cases seem hopeless, let God heal

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

AS A YOUNG physician fresh out of medical school, I thought all medical problems and their treatment could be explained by the science of medicine. Anything short of an objective scientific explanation should be quackery.

After more than two decades of medical practice, I now realize that neither the science nor the art of medicine could explain how some patients recover in a manner that could not be attributed to medicines and other forms of human intervention.

We once had a patient who we had diagnosed as having terminal cancer. She was severely emaciated and had to be fed through a tube. Six months, nine months max, we told her relatives. The patient and her relatives accepted the verdict. She continued her medications and decided to go back to her ancestral home in the province where she wanted to breathe her last.

Because she was well known in her barrio for her kindness and generosity, their house became a venue for almost daily prayer sessions seeking providential intervention to extend her life.

More than a year after we gave the patient the "death sentence," she came back to our clinic, about 25 pounds heavier, a healthy blush complementing the big smile on her face as she walked unassisted.

We repeated all the diagnostic tests. There was no trace of the tumor that we had earlier diagnosed to have already spread and beyond any medical treatment.

It was a humbling experience for us, but we felt happy for our patient.

Mere instruments

Her recovery defied rational scientific explanation, but it highlighted the fact that physicians are only instruments of the true Divine Healer.

Physicians, as earthly healing surrogates, work through methodical inference and application of what they have learned and trained for. However, all the science in this world is only a speck compared to the Divine mastery of all earthly illnesses.

The memory of our patient came to mind when I received an excellent and touching article on the subject of spiritual healing from a good friend, Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong, a retired pharmaceutical executive who is now active in civic and philanthropic work.

MEDICAL FILES

Rose says, "Physical healing, as a sign of God's love and compassion, is an integral part of Christian life and faith. Western medicine, however, has been trying for many years to veer away from the remnants of religious mysticism. Surprisingly, a growing body of scientific evidence has begun to emerge, establishing a connection between healing and spirituality."

Prayer heals

She cites two well-known studies of distant healing and prayer published in the Western Journal of Medicine in 1998. In two well-designed scientific studies in patients with advanced Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Dr. Elizabeth Targ, former director of the complementary medicine research at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, was able to show improved health outcomes in the patient group who were prayed for.

Due to the encouraging results of these preliminary studies, the National Institutes of Health, a highly respected source of many scientific breakthroughs, initiated a large-scale study to validate the earlier findings and conclusively determine the effects of distant healing and prayer in patients with AIDS and glioblastoma, an extremely serious brain tumor.

Rose also cites a pooled analysis of 23 accepted scientific trials published in the Annals of Internal Medicine by Astin et al. regarding the efficacy of distant healing (prayer, mental healing, therapeutic touch or spiritual healing) as treatment for any medical condition. Majority of the trials showed statistically significant improvement in the groups of patients who were beneficiaries of distant healing.

Rose says that more than 200 cases in medical literature have been unearthed.

"Most of these (cases) offer evidence that religion is good for one's health. These include studies among heart surgery patients, hypertensives, those suffering from hip fractures, depression, anxiety-related disorders and other ailments.

Various explanations

"Several theories have been advanced to explain the successful results, ranging from the scientific to the philosophical and the supernatural. But the fact remains that while Western medicine is still effective in combating infectious diseases, treating injuries and replacing diseased hearts and kidneys, the greater challenge is addressing stress and lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, depression and acute illnesses that become chronic, such as cancer and AIDS.

"Dr. Herbert Benson, founding president of the Mind/Body Medical Institute of Harvard Medical School told Time that anywhere from 60 to 90 percent of visits to doctors are in the mind-body, stress-related realm. Traditional modes of therapy—pharmacological and surgical—don't work well against them.

"As patients fail to find significant relief in a doctor's clinic, the seemingly endless battery of laboratory procedures and high-tech tests of modern medicine cause them to feel increasingly alienated and uncared for. Thus, a growing number of patients try to seek comfort from alternative therapists, faith healers, New Age practitioners and intercessory prayer groups in their quest for a more personal and more spiritual approach to the management of medical conditions.

Holistic medicine

"This apparent shift in patients' attitude toward health and healing has not gone unnoticed by the medical community. In the United States, research funds from federal agencies are now being directed into studies designed to understand the scientific merit of complementary and alternative treatments that include distant healing and prayer. More and more US medical schools are adding courses on holistic medicine with titles like Caring for the Soul, which are expected to eventually find its way into the mainstream medical setting.

"On the local front, medical associations like the Philippine Psychiatric Association and the Philippine Heart Association have tackled various topics on holistic medicine as part of their continuing education program.

"The connection between healing and spirituality has been recorded in the Old Testament...and during the ministry of Jesus. In all these cases of healing, there was one common denominator: all those who received healing held on to their spiritual belief and had strong faith to get well.

"One of the first things that Jesus looked for in the sick person was a desire to get well, said Tom Marshall in his book 'Healing from the Inside Out.' Where there was an earnest desire to get well on the part of the sick person, it always brought forth an immediate response.

"Dr. Benson could not have been more correct when, in his book 'Timeless Healing: The Power and Biology of Belief,' he wrote, 'Faith in medical treatment is wonderfully therapeutic, successful in treating 60 to 90 percent of the most common medical problems. But if you so believe, faith in an invincible and infallible force carries even more healing power... It is a supremely potent belief.'

"As we ponder on the role of spirituality in the practice of medicine, we ask ourselves: What can the medical community learn from these trends? How should medical practice be re-conceived to take into account the role of spirituality in physical healing? And how can medical practitioners reach out beyond the purely physical to the deep human needs of caring and understanding?"

If you want a full copy of Rose's insights on spiritual healing, get a copy of the maiden issue of the Health & Lifestyle, which will be available at magazine stands in December.

In this day and age when many medical specialists always seek for scientific evidence every time they write a prescription, it makes sense that in complicated and seemingly hopeless cases, the physician should humble himself and give way so God Himself can do the healing.

Pfizer promotes wellness at Inquirer

IN THIS DAY and age, businesses grow more and more competitive as speed and accuracy become top priorities. Working professionals may enjoy the adrenalin rush in this fast-paced and work-oriented lifestyle, but keeping up with such pace can be very stressful and thus detrimental to their health.

This is particularly the case in the newspaper business where people are always trying to beat the deadline.

Recognizing the hazards of stress, Pfizer Inc. recently conducted free medical examinations and consultations at theINQUIRERas part of its Workplace Wellness Program. More than a hundred INQUIRER employees availed of the opportunity to learn more about their own health and the various risk factors.

PDI employees avail of free blood pressure monitoring, cholesterol screening and ECG tests offered by Pfizer's Workplace Wellness Program.

In a lecture, Dr. Julie Querijero, Pfizer's associate director for medical and regulatory affairs, discussed proper diet, exercise, sleeping habits and how these factors affect work. The employees had the opportunity to ask questions about various illnesses and diseases, particularly the dangers of high cholesterol and cardiovascular diseases.

Among the free medical tests offered by the Workplace Wellness Program are blood pressure monitoring, cholesterol screening and ECG tests.

The Workplace Wellness Program is part of Pfizer Philippines' continuing efforts to battle various diseases and disseminate valuable health information to as many Filipinos as possible. Pfizer is a global research-based healthcare company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals.

New family planning method soon in RP

THE STANDARD days method (SDM) could be the much-awaited breakthrough for natural family planning in the country, according to Health Undersecretary Milagros Fernandez.

It will soon be available nationwide, in compliance with Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's directive last Aug. 15. Fernandez said Dayrit wanted to have more collaborative studies that will further prove the efficacy of SDM.

SDM makes use of color-coded Cycle Beads or necklace that enables a woman to determine her fertile period—the eighth to the 19th day of her menstrual cycle.

Developed by the Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) of Georgetown University, SDM has been proven to be 95.25 percent effective in five sites in the three countries where it was tested.

In developing the system, the IRH used the World Health Organization database of over 7,000 menstrual cycles. It then studied the life span of egg and sperm cells in the reproductive tract and included the percentage of pregnancies occurring due to changes in ovulation periods.

"Using simulations, we found out that women with 26- to 32-day cycles have higher chances of getting pregnant from Day 8 to Day 19 of their cycle," said IRH associate director Myrna Seidman, who was recently in Manila for the SDM dissemination forum for nongovernment organizations.

"SDM is easy to learn and use," Siedman said. "Health officials, providers and program managers find it easy to offer SDM to clients. Many couples are willing and are able to use it correctly, and correct use increases over time."

To be successful, SDM depends on these three key factors:

- Government agencies, NGOs, private clinics, hospitals and health-care providers should make it available to the public.
- It should be available in the commercial market.
- It should be integrated into the training, promotion and services of family planning programs.

CHELATION CLINIC
Dr. Art Estuita (seated), medical director of Estuita Clinic of Internal and Biological Medicine, is an internist/cardiologist/preventist doing bio-oxidative chelation therapy. With him are members of his staff. Chelation Centers are located at the Taft Office Center Condominium in Pasay City; Block 5, Lot 27, President Aguinaldo corner President Laurel Streets, Malacañang Village, Parañaque; Prince Arcade, Ortigas Extension, Pasig; Atienza Building, Old National Highway, Barangay Nueva, San Pedro, Laguna; and Ablaza Building, 117 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

SCISCOPE

Food scientists' own Nobel Prize

DID you know that food and agriculture scientists have their own equivalent of the coveted Nobel Prize? It is called "World Food Prize" which was conceived by agriculture icon, Norman Borlaug, himself a Nobel Prize winner for his vast contribution in the "Green Revolution."

Last year, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a member-center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), bagged the World Food Prize Laureate.

The award recognizes Pinstrup-Andersen's lifetime achievements in food policy research to help poor and malnourished people in developing countries.

For nearly a decade, Pinstrup-Andersen has led IFPRI to become the world's leading think tank on hunger and food policy issues. He was cited for having led research efforts that enabled governments of developing countries to transform their food policies, thus dramatically increasing the amount of food available to poorest people.

In 2000, two CGIAR scientists—Doctors Surinder K. Vasal and Evangelina Villegas—received the same World Food Prize for their work in developing a higher-yielding, protein-rich corn that can help prevent malnutrition in millions of people.

Dr. Villegas is the first woman ever to receive the prize. She and Dr. Vasal are affiliated with the Centro Internacional de Mejorameinto de Maiz y Trigo (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), or CIMMYT, based in Mexico.

China's newest food crop

A NEW food crop—pigeonpea has been successfully introduced in Guangxi province, China, by researchers of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat).

Pigeonpea is a hardy, drought-tolerant legume high in protein and B vitamins and offers the added benefit of fixing nitrogen and other nutrients in the soil.

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) is currently working to promote pigeonpea cultivation in three more provinces in China characterized by harsh, dryland farming conditions. The research effort has received China's "Love Ball" and "Friendship" awards.

Icrisat is one of the 16 international research centers of CGIAR known as "Future Harvest Centers." The Indian-based agency is headed by Filipino scientist,Dr. William D. Dar, a one-time acting Secretary of Agriculture from the Ilocos.

Fight vs malaria

APPROPRIATE water use in agriculture is an added dimension in current researches in addressing public health concerns in many parts of Asia and Africa.

Spearheading the research that involves water and land resource management are scientists of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), another "Future Harvest Center" of the CGIAR.

The CGIAR Systemwide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture (Sima) is developing improved water management practices for better mosquito control.

Traditionally, malaria prevention efforts have relied on pesticides or pharmaceutical drugs. As mosquitoes develop resistance, pesticides and drugs lose their effectiveness against the malarial parasite.

Sima is looking for solutions in a neglected area of research: improved water management practices that curb malaria at its source—stagnant pools of water common in irrigated agricultural areas.

Walk down the streets of Cebu and Davao cities and chances are you'll find at least two internet cafés in every block. The sheer number of these establishments is jarring. A pedestrian might perceive one café to be just like the next one, and the next. But a regular internet café patron would know that not all internet cafés are the same.

DSL Brews perfect Cafés

CLICKERZ · [illegible] married couple Radley and Banjie Barrientos didn't [illegible] much about computers. But they put up an internet café anyway. We k[illegible] this kind of business was gonna grow," Radley [illegible] people.

[illegible] money. They operated [illegible] in 1998. [illegible] new net café [illegible] Exchange [illegible] manager [illegible]

[illegible] dial-up [illegible] Banjie [illegible] customers [illegible] angry customer[illegible] "Nagrereklamo, hindi[illegible] sila maka-send ng pi[illegible]

The couple has been [illegible] of other providers and g[illegible] up with all of them when they [illegible] failed to give them what they [illegible] need. Radley explains what these [illegible] needs are, "First is speed. Seco[illegible] is reliability, because we re[illegible] on a 24-7 basis."

It was really quite a relief for the Barrientoses couple when PLDT DSL came to town this year. They saw some posters around town, and went to PLDT to inquire at the first opportunity. They have promptly proceeded to change their internet connections, one café at a time.

Changes ensued. "More users. More satisfied customers. And more satisfied customers refer us to their friends," Radley and Banjie enumerate. A growing number of internet cafés in Davao now use PLDT DSL. "A lot of them," Banjie shares, "we referred to PLDT."

CLICKERZ owner Radley Barrientos

CYBERSCAPE · Geoffrey Labos was 18 when he put up his first Cyberscape café in Cebu. It was a small one. Geoffrey could only fit 10 computers and he had no room to set up an office. And, Geoffrey admits, "Di pa kaayo ko kahiba'o [I didn't know that much yet.]"

That was in 1998. Today, four years later, Cyberscape has grown astronomically. It now has a total of 61 workstations, distributed among 3 branches, each one with an office from which a more business-savvy Geoffrey could run the business with 25-year-old Sherwin Sanchez, the manager he fired.

[illegible] We're the biggest here," Geoffrey beams. But he and Sherwin both know bigger also means bigger challenges and stiffer competition. Sharwin says that they must always [illegible] their [illegible] give them [illegible] speed [illegible] and computers [illegible]

[illegible] Geoffrey and Sh[illegible] them to give [illegible] P25 [illegible]

[illegible] Sherwin says, "[illegible] for Cyberscape [illegible] our services [illegible] need to include [illegible] programs to [illegible]

[illegible] self-paced com[illegible] of se[illegible]

Cyberscape may be good business, it's also good fun. Geoffrey and Sherwin are still internet junkies at heart. "Parang laruan ko 'to," Geoffrey smiles. With PLDT DSL the two young men can surf, chat and download all the MP3 house music they want.

CYBERSCAPE COO Geoffrey Labos & Manager Sherwin Sanchez

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We've expanded our business DSL to businesses all over the country.

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Walk down the streets of Cebu and Davao cities and chances are you'll find at least two internet cafés in every block. The sheer number of these establishments is jarring. A pedestrian might perceive one café to be just like the next one, and the next. But a regular internet café patron would know that not all internet cafés are the same.

iCYBERSCAPE internet
global presence is our concern

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"We're the biggest here," Geoffrey beams. But he and Sherwin both know bigger also means bigger challenges and stiffer competition. Sherwin says that they must always focus on their customers, "You have to give them high-speed internet access... high-end computers... friendly staff."

Which is why they eagerly signed up with PLDT DSL almost as soon as it launched this year in Cebu. Cyberscape started off using leased line internet access. But now it can provide its customers a bigger bandwidth, which would have cost Geoffrey and Sherwin a lot, but which PDLT DSL allows them to give, still at a [illegible] blowingly affordable rate of P25 per hour.

[illegible] affordable and reasonable," Sherwin says. And it [illegible] the big dreams they have for Cyberscape. "We're able to expand [illegible] equipment, and also our services." They're not just an Internet café anymore—they've expanded to include website hosting, and soon, self-paced computer training programs to their menu of services.

Cyberscape may be good business, but it's also good fun. Geoffrey and Sherwin are still internet junkies at heart. "Parang laruan ko 'to," Geoffrey smiles. With PLDT DSL the two young men can surf, chat and download all the MP3 house music they want.

CYBERSCAPE COO Geoffrey Labos & Manager Sherwin Sanchez

CLICKERZ

CLICKERZ · Young married couple Radley and Banjie Barrientos didn't know much about computers. But they put up an internet café anyway. "We knew this kind of business was gonna grow," Radley posits.

Their instincts were right on the money. They opened Clickerz in 1999, and they have been opening a new net café every year after that. The two most recent are the Internet Exchange branches, which serve a clientele that was edgier than that of Clickerz.

"We started out with a dial-up account," relates Banjie. But this kind of connection failed to satisfy their customers. "Everyday you get to see these angry customers," Radley recounts. "Nagrereklamo, hindi sila maka-connect. Hindi sila maka-send ng pictures," Banjie adds.

The couple has been through a lot of other providers and got fed up with all of them when they failed to give them what they need. Radley explains what these needs are, "First is speed. Second is reliability, because we're operating on a 24-7 basis."

DSL Brews perfect Cafés

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Changes ensued. "More users. More satisfied customers. And more satisfied customers refer us to their friends," Radley and Banjie enumerate. A growing number of internet cafés in Davao now use PLDT DSL. "A lot of them," Banjie shares, "we referred to PLDT."

CLICKERZ owner, Radley Barrientos

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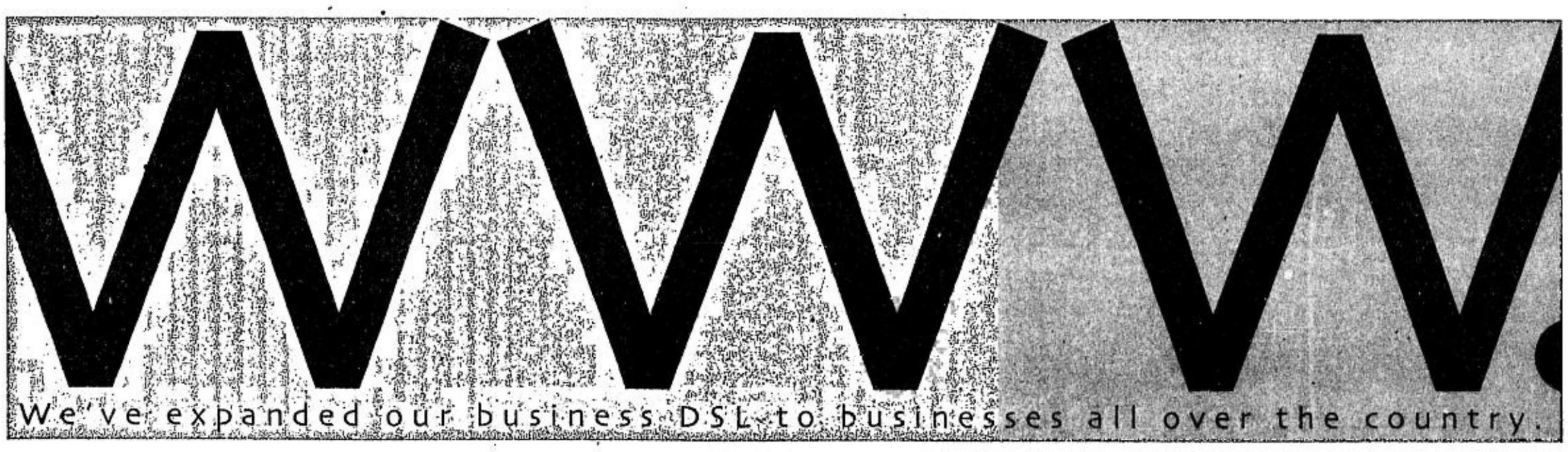

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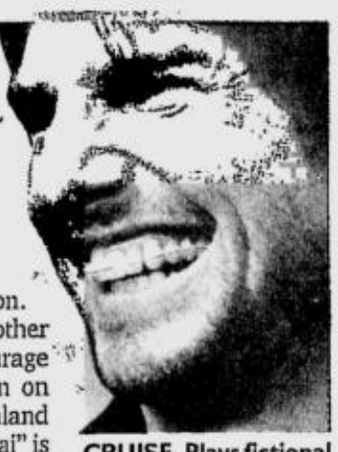
SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Tom Cruise looks forward to role in 'Last Samurai'



CRUISE. Plays fictional US military officer in period film.

IZUMISANO, Japan—Tom Cruise spoke of his admiration for Japan's warrior spirit at a news conference in western Japan on Tuesday to mark the start of shooting for his next movie, "The Last Samurai." Set in 19th century Japan, the film stars Cruise as a fictional US military officer hired by the Japanese government to train their army in the art of modern warfare.

Deep respect

"I always had a deep respect and a strong feeling for the culture of Japanese people and the elegance and the beauty of the samurai spirit," Cruise said at the news conference, describing the role as a "dream-come-true thing."

In the film, his character, Capt. Nathan Algren, finds himself impressed and influenced by the samurai, even as the Japanese government attempts to eradicate their old-fashioned ways on the way to Westernization.

Director Edward Zwick, whose other credits include "The Siege" and "Courage Under Fire," started shooting in Japan on Thursday, followed by stints in New Zealand and the United States. "The Last Samurai" is due to be released worldwide in early 2004,

TOM/ C3

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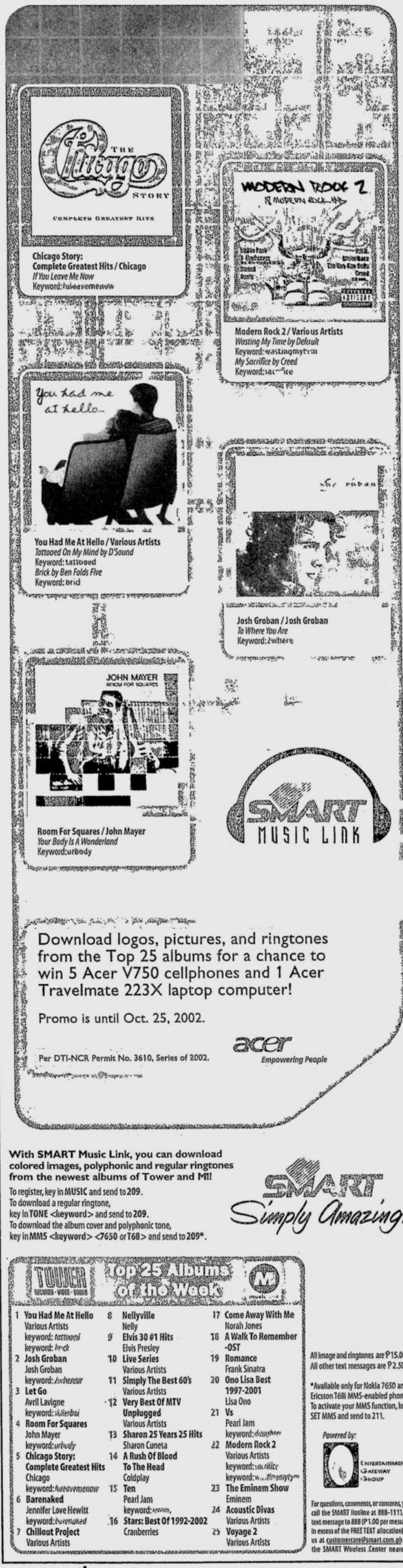

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4 Room For Squares — John Mayer — keyword: urbody
5 Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits — Chicago — keyword: fulwavemenow
6 Barenaked — Jennifer Love Hewitt — keyword: barenaked
7 Chillout Project — Various Artists
8 Nellyville — Nelly
9 Elvis 30 #1 Hits — Elvis Presley
10 Live Series — Various Artists
11 Simply The Best 60's — Various Artists
12 Very Best Of MTV Unplugged — Various Artists
13 Sharon 25 Years 25 Hits — Sharon Cuneta
14 A Rush Of Blood To The Head — Coldplay
15 Ten — Pearl Jam — keyword: ten
16 Stars: Best Of 1992-2002 — Cranberries
17 Come Away With Me — Norah Jones
18 A Walk To Remember -OST
19 Romance — Frank Sinatra
20 Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001 — Lisa Ono
21 Vs — Pearl Jam — keyword: daughter
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Will FPJ run for president?

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME months ago, we conducted an informal poll of action king Fernando Poe Jr.'s friends and movie colleagues on the then not-yet-so-hot question: "Will FPJ run for president in 2004, or not?"

Nobody said yes. Practically everybody said "Definitely not," while a few others answered, "I don't think so" or "I don't know."

Respondents

Mind you, our poll respondents included people whom FPJ had known and worked with for decades, friends who were sure they knew him inside-out.

We begged to differ. We said our gut-feel was that FPJ would eventually decide to run for president—but not for the usual, over-obvious reasons.

Our respondents were vociferous in their dissent. They said the perfect way to sum up FPJ's feelings on the matter was to recall Dolphy's own classic retort when *he* was asked about his own presidential ambitions: "Frankly speaking, it's easy (for film superstars like us) to win. The big problem is, what do we do *after* we win?!"

POE JR. Intensely private person.

No fanfare

They went on to remind us that FPJ was an intensely private person who liked helping people without any fanfare—the complete opposite of a politician! Also, since he had campaigned intensely for Joseph Estrada several times in the past, he had gotten to see politicians in action, mostly at their worst, and wanted no part of their sleazy game.

Ambition? Power-tripping? The lure of filthy lucre? FPJ was already as wealthy as he ever wanted to be, thank you. And he was already an icon revered by millions, so power and ambition were no longer at the top of his list of priorities.

The reference to FPJ's buddy, Joseph Estrada, brought up this popular notion: FPJ will run for president so he can gift his friend with a presidential pardon. What did our respondents think of *that?*

Astute observer

No way, they said. FPJ went by the book. While he was a loyal buddy, he wouldn't bend over backward that much, even for Joseph. And he was an astute observer of human nature and knew how a decision like that would severely polarize conflicting sectors in the country.

In any case, the bottom line was: FPJ wouldn't run, because it wasn't in his nature, and he didn't need the aggravation.

Still, quite bullheadedly, we said we thought differently. We didn't know FPJ as well as our respondents, but we had this hunch that, eventually, he *would* run for president. Not for the standard reasons already cited, but because he loved the movie industry so much.

Competent

Huh? What did the movies have to do with running the country? In FPJ's view, plenty. Since movie people have been given a black eye by failed or compromised actor-politicians of late, our hunch is that, if he runs for president, he'll do it partly to prove that there are movie people like himself who can be competent, and are not corrupt.

In addition, his "hero" and "savior" screen syndromes are also kicking in: he wants to help save the beleaguered Filipino people—from themselves.

Are we merely indulging in fantasy? *This* is no illusion: some months ago, when FPJ was asked if he would run for president, he retorted, "Of course not. No way!" Recently, however, he was asked the same question, and his reply was a more tantalizingly equivocal, "This is not the right venue and time for me to answer that question." Hmmm . . .

'Bubble Gang' celebrates life and humor

By Jocelyn Valle

OGIE Alcasid can't cite his wackiest experience on his gag show, Channel 7's "Bubble Gang." *"Masyado kasing madami,"* he says, shaking his head. *"Para kaming isang barkada na nag-a-*outing!"

Comic side

"Natatawa kami kahit nagtitake na," laughs Maricar de Mesa, who, as a regular guest on the Saturday-night program, gets to show off her comic side, making telenovela viewers forget that she's the hated Olga on "Saria Ay Ikaw na Nga."

The "Bedtime Stories" star adds: *"Sa akin, ang* wackiest *'yung na*-take five *ako. Si* Bitoy (Michael V) *kasi, sutil. Si* Ogie *naman ang kakampi ko.* I'm having fun with them."

MICHAEL V. There will always be TV ads, fads and celebrities to lampoon.

For Michael V, acting on "Bubble Gang" has been wacky. But, he points out, it's also serious work. For starters, they have a pool of seven writers who wrack their brains to come up with funny situations and witty one-liners every week.

The mainstays, including Ara Mira, Rufa Mae Quinto, Assunta de Rossi, Wendell Ramos and Antonio Aquitaña, may seem like they're ad-libbing on-screen, but they are actually following a script. "Very strict *kami d'yan,"* he stresses. "We also rehearse a lot until we master a gag."

Creative director

It helps that Michael, who's also the show's creative director, knows his co-stars very well, so he knows exactly what sort of assignment each one should get.

How does he know which gags click with viewers? *"Nilalapitan ako ng tao, at sinasabi nila kung alin 'yung* OK *na ginagawa namin,"* he replies.

Rough sailing

Just like other shows, "Bubble Gang" had some rough sailing in the beginning. Ogie and Michael came from the then frontrunner, Channel 5's "Tropang Trumpo," and there was pressure on them to replicate their old show's success.

It took a while for the new group to jell, Michael V recalls. "I never thought that we'd come this far," he intones, and Ogie observes: "We've had our peaks and valleys." He cites the time of

BUBBLE/ C3

"SIX FEET UNDER." Despite its morbid theme, the show deals with issues faced by the average individual.

HBO's 'Six Feet Under' premieres tonight

By Edmund L. Sicam

HBO's "Six Feet Under," which premieres tonight at 10:50 (succeeding episodes will air Tuesdays at 10 p.m.), concerns a dysfunctional family (The Fishers) with typical modern-day problems—Ruth, the mother (Frances Conroy) who has an extramarital affair; the eldest son Nate (Peter Krause) who's a drifter; a gay son David (Michael C. Hall) who runs the family business with an iron hand; and a rebellious daughter Claire (Lauren Ambrose), who does drugs and basically just hates everything about her family.

The patriarch of the family, Nathaniel Sr. (Richard Jenkins) is a heavy smoker but he doesn't die from lung cancer. He crashes into a bus while driving the brand-new family hearse.

Quirky series

A hearse? Oh, we forgot to mention that the family is engaged in the funeral parlor business. The quirky series was created by Alan Ball, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for another off-the-wall production about a dysfunctional family, "American Beauty."

Initially, Ball was apprehensive that his subject matter would offend viewers who may find death too gruesome a subject to follow every week.

The writer/director needn't have worried. "Six Feet Under" has become one of HBO's runaway hits, just like "The Sopranos," which is also about another dysfunctional family which has connections with the underworld.

"Six Feet Under" received a record-breaking 23 nominations at the recent Emmy Awards and went home with six awards including most outstanding director for Alan Ball.

Just how quirky is the series? Some illustrations: Nathaniel dies in the first few minutes of the show but he constantly appears in every episode in the imagination of his family. Nate flies in from Seattle, meets an attractive woman on the plane and proceeds to have sex with her in a closet. Claire exacts revenge on her boyfriend by stealing a severed foot from a corpse in the parlor and putting it in his locker.

Between scenes, the series shows commercials about products used in a funeral parlor, presented in the usual Madison ave. manner, complete with choreography and jingles.

Issues

In spite of the morbid theme, the show deals with issues faced by the average individual. Krause, who plays Nate, explains it this way: "I think the charac-

HBO's/ C4

Promotion

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Mr. Epifanio Joaquin, President, Parish Pastoral Council, St. James The Great Msgr. Jose c. Bernardo Jr. Parish Priest St. James The Great
Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan President and CEO PLDT Mr. Anastacio R. Martirez Head PCMSD Smart Communications Mr. Alfredo Xerex-Burgos President Landco Pacific

In simple contract signing ceremonies held at the Executive Offices of Landco Pacific in Paranaque last October 7, SMART Communications pledged its full support to the worthy projects of the Parish of St. James the Great of Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. SMART sponsored the parish's fund-raising event, "Isabuhay...ang Pangarap sa St. James...Bringing Families Together". It will be mounted for parish-priority projects such as needed repairs for the church, the expansion of the parish Rectory, as well as the construction of parking facilities.

Signing the agreement were Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, President and CEO of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT); Mr. Anastacio R. Martirez, Head, PCMSD of SMART Communications; Mr. Epifanio Joaquin, President, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish of St. James the Great; and Reverend Monsignor Jose C. Bernardo Jr., Parish Priest of the Parish of St. James the Great.

The main feature of the event will be musical entertainment by the much acclaimed Spirit of 67 Band as well as a Fashion Show with no other than St. James Parishioners as models featuring collections from Store Specialists and Manila's premiere couturier Ben Farrales. "Isabuhay...ang Pangarap sa St. James..." will be held on October 26, 2002, 6:00 P.M. at the Reception Hall of the PICC.

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'Bubble Gang' celebrates life and humor

From page C2

ALCASID. Positive feedback.

"Dating Doon" (Brod Pete and company's spoof of a religious program) as "Bubble Gang's" highest point so far.

Lately, the guys have been getting positive feedback for their crazy male version of the popular Sex Bomb Dancers.

Michael and Ogie are positive that they'll never run out of ideas in the show. Because, they explain, there will always be TV ads, fads and celebrities to lampoon. "And we're here to celebrate life and humor!," they enthuse.

Tom . . .

From page C1

Warner Brothers Pictures said.

Best birthday present

"This film is the best birthday present that anyone could ever have," said Zwick, who turned 50 on Tuesday.

The cast also includes Japanese star Hiroyuki Sanada as Algren's fencing master. Sanada's past acting credits include playing the fool in "King Lear" with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1999.

Reuters

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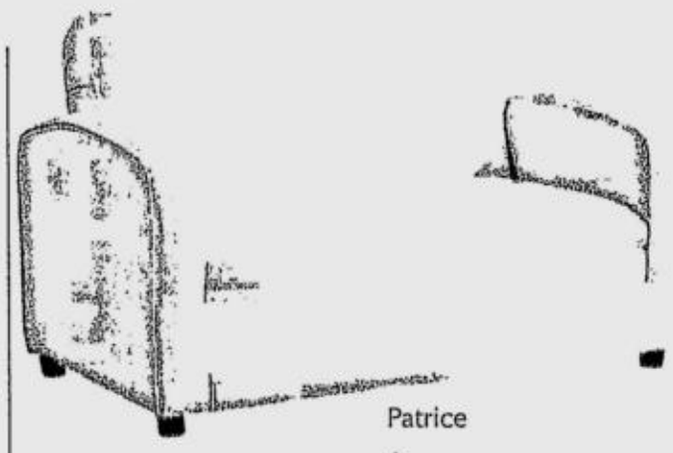
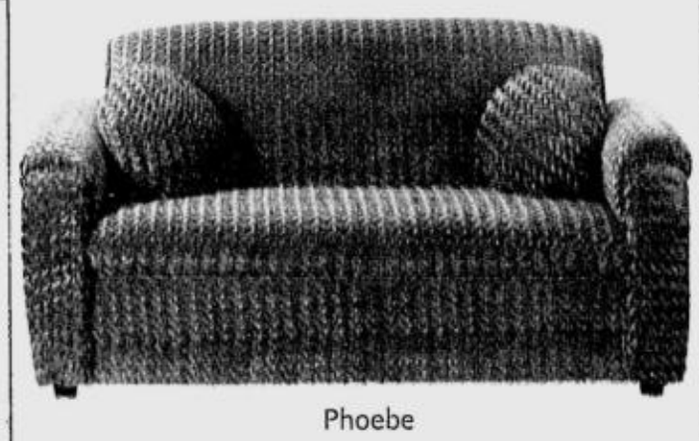
2-seater sofas in leatherette or fabric

Saffron



Patrice

Janica



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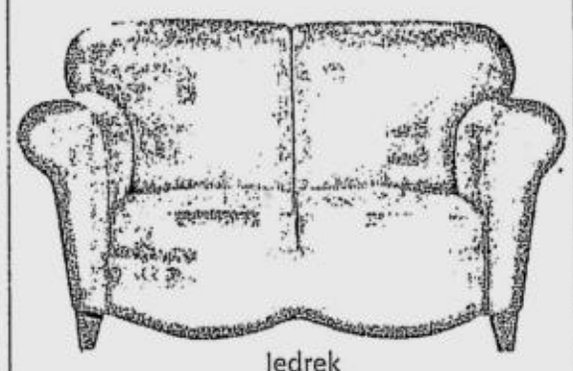

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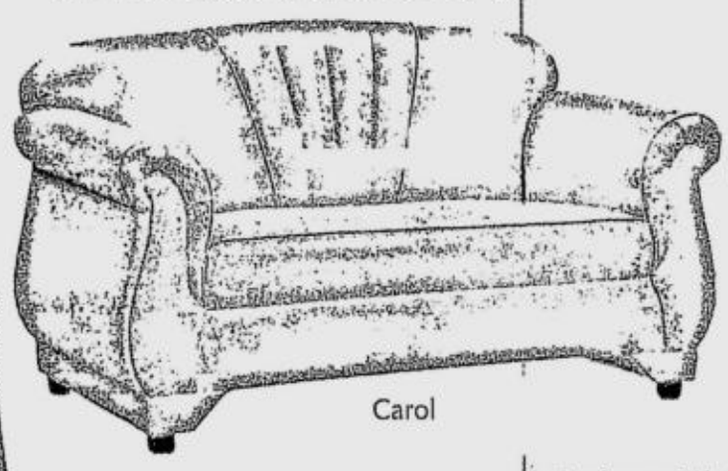

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Enlarged pores are visible to the naked eye and make the skin appear rough and bumpy.
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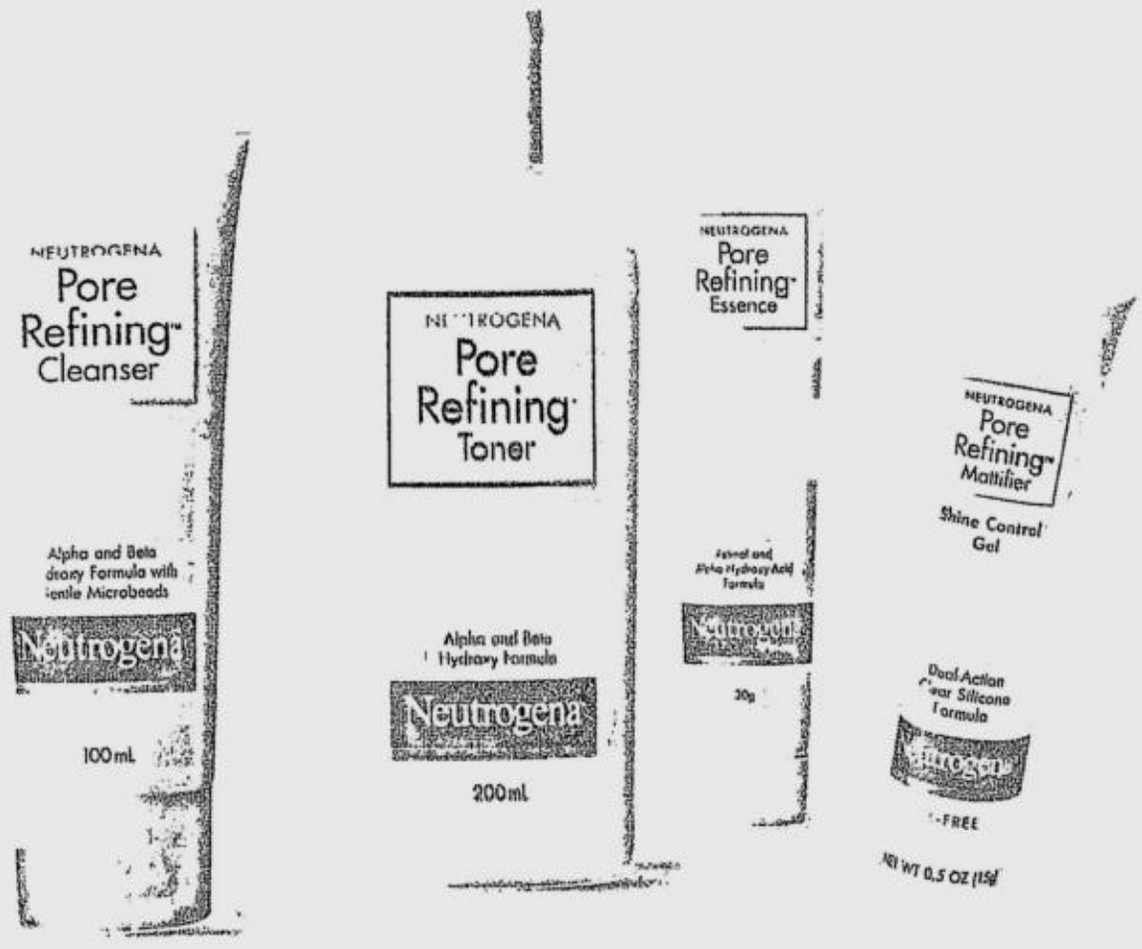

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Josh Groban wants to be known as a pop singer

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

***From Joyce Ann Paloma of Tarlac,* "Please, please tell me where I can write my favorite stars, Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst from 'Spider-Man.' Maybe you can share some little-known trivia about them?"'**

Given how popular Tobey and Kirsten are these days, and how voraciously their fans gobble up any information about them, we aren't so sure if the trivia we know about them are little-known or not. But they are interesting:

Parents

The 27-year-old actor's parents were only in their teens when he was born. They split up after only two years, as is common among early unions. The 5'8" actor quit school in 9th grade to pursue acting.

Tobey bought a $3.5-M Beverly Hills mansion in May this year with his $4-M paycheck from "Spider-Man." But that's just for starters. He is expected to earn $12.5-M for the sequel (slated for 2004) and $13.5-M for the third installment.

Write Tobey c/o The Gerth Agency, 232 North Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210, USA.

On the other hand, Kirsten is only 20 years old, but it seems like she has been in show business for ages. Well, she did start out as a child actress and commercial model (she has done about 70 commercials).

Her first screen kiss was not with Tobey in "Spider-Man," nor with Jay Hernandez in "crazy/beautiful," but with Brad Pitt in 1994's "Interview with the Vampire"—at age 11!

She turned down the role of Angela (she with all those rose petals, played by Mena Suvari) in Sam Mendes' Oscar-winning film, "American Beauty." She was 15 when the role was offered to her.

Not old enough

She said, "I was not old enough to understand it, and was too young to kiss Kevin Spacey. And, come on! Lying there naked with those rose petals?"

Too young to kiss Kevin Spacey at 15, but old enough to kiss Brad Pitt at 11? Go figure. Just the same, Kirsten deserves all the extra luster her star is getting in the Hollywood firmament.

This girl can also sing! Check out the movie, "Get Over It" and its soundtrack, and listen to her angelic warbling of "Dream of Me." Cute song, beautiful singing.

Write Kirsten at these addresses: P.O. Box 15306 Beverly Hills, California 90209, or c/o Iris Burton Agency, 8916 Ashcroft Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90048, or c/o William Morris Agency, 151 El Camino Drive, Beverly Hills, Ca 90212, USA.

***From Marlon Lopez of Davao City,* "Josh Groban's voice just blew me away the first time I heard him on 'Ally McBeal.' I have since bought his album and loved his songs. I have read quite a bit about him, but perhaps you can tell me more?"**

Josh Groban captured the imagination of millions of "Ally McBeal's" viewers when he appeared in a two-part season finale as an awkward teenager who showcased his exquisite, powerful baritone and sang "You're Still You" on the show. Needless to say, everybody was impressed with the young singer's powerful but subtle singing style.

Producer

His professional life really started when he met producer David Foster (of course, you know the composer and male vocal half—the other half being Olivia Newton John—in the classic duet, "The Best of Me").

GROBAN. Now that he's a star, his social life has improved by leaps and bounds.

MAGUIRE. He is expected to earn $12.5 million for the sequel to "Spider-Man."

His vocal coach knew Foster, who contacted the teacher to see if he could recommend anyone to sing at the inauguration of the Governor of California. The 21-year-old singing sensation, then 17, got the gig and began his collaboration with Foster. He also filled in for an indisposed Andrea Bocelli at the rehearsal of the 1999 Grammys.

Now on its 42nd week in the charts, his "classical pop" debut (in English and Italian) crossed genres and reached No. 8 in Billboard's pop album chart, an impressive feat for a classically-trained talent.

He says, "I always wanted my CD to wind up in the pop section, because that's what I really see my music as. My musical influences may come from all genres (Sting, Bjork, Peter Gabriel, Paul Simon, etc.), but I look at myself as a pop singer."

Impressive names

His influences are impressive names from the legitimate stage—from musical theater and the opera: Mandy Patinkin, Luciano Pavarotti, George Hearn. (He explains, "I loved anyone who told a story through their songs.")

He dropped out of school when fame came knocking on his door. He feels the need to vocalize regularly. He trains with a voice coach three or four times a week and works on songs almost everyday. If every singer/musical theater actor has a "signature" audition piece, his is "If I Sing," from the musical, "Closer Than Ever."

How has his social life been lately? In a VH1 interview, Josh reveals that it has improved by leaps and bounds: "After 'Ally McBeal,' a lot of girls wanted to take me to the prom. I have also had a few marriage proposals. I think it's cool!"

***From Kristina Marie Robles of Taguig*: "Is it true that Steve Burns is leaving "Blue's Clues"? I love the show and can't imagine how it is going to manage without Steve."**

Unfortunately, Kristina, it *is* true. Steve has hosted Nickelodeon's well-loved kiddie show, "Blue's Clues" (Mondays to Fridays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.), from 1996 to the 2001 season. Time reported in January last year that Steve's clue-figuring days were numbered because Steve felt it was time to move on.

He explains, "It was either I quit then or keep doing the show for the rest of my life." He wanted to do more than keep the blue dog company, and try some acting (he has appeared in "Law and Order" and "Homicide") and music (he is hoping to land a distribution deal for his album, "Songs for Dustmites").

If it's any consolation, Steve has appeared in 100 episodes of the show—that's a lot to keep his fans happy in syndication land. Also, we have seen three "Blue's Clues" specials on VCD sale (only P150) in leading stores in Metro Manila.

The 5'6", 24-year-old actor showed up for his initial job interview for "Blue's Clues" with long hair, an earring and wearing army fatigues. His replacement, Donovan Patton, was chosen by test audiences to play Joe, a new character that was gradually introduced through a three-episode story arc which had Steve going away to college. All three episodes were shown back-to-back in the US in April this year.

Ballads given unique rendition in Lloyd Umali's 'Babalikang Muli'

By Leia Torre

THE 12 tracks in Lloyd Umali's latest album, "Babalikang Muli," are all ballads. The singer is in exalted company here: his guest artists include Noel Cabangon as back-up vocalist, Tots Tolentino as saxophone soloist, and Jun Lopito as guitar soloist.

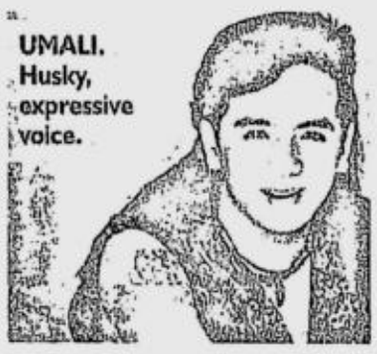
Tracks

The tracks are "Umaasa Pa Rin," "Sa Isip Ko," "Babalikang Muli," "Tell Me," "How Do I Live," "Pagkat Wala Ka Na," "Kahit Na," "Tugon Sa 'King Dasal," "How Did You Know," "Narito Ka Lang Pala," "These Dreams," and "Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough."

These numbers are remakes. The mix is altogether pleasing, since the songs seem to have been chosen based on how they suit Umali's voice.

The singer performs songs in both English and Filipino with the same level of quality, although the songs with Filipino lyrics sound more expressive. What's nice is that even the English songs sound more meaningful than they did originally.

Perhaps it's due to Umali's ability to imbue the songs with whatever sentiment they are supposed to evoke. It also helps that he has a husky, gravelly and expressive voice that serves as an effective tool for communicating emotions, especially the tender ones.



UMALI. Husky, expressive voice.

This may surprise people who have seen photos of Umali, where he looks more like a rocker than a balladeer. It just goes to show that in the music arena, appearance is not directly related to musicality.

One of the more popular songs is "Tell Me," originally sung by Side A. There have been quite a few remakes of this song, with each artist adding his own touch to the song.

Cello

Umali's version starts off in much the same way, slowly. He takes the liberty, however, of changing quite a few of the notes and the tempo of the song in some places. His interpretation also boasts of a cello among his accompanying instruments. His version of the song also ends differently from how it does in those other versions.

"Babalikang Muli," is a duet with Carol Banawa. As the song starts out, their voices don't mesh well, but they get it together towards the end.

Accompaniment

Although the songs are ballads, their accompaniment sounds more like the one frequently heard in alternative and rock songs, like the use of an electric guitar on some of the cuts.

The result sounds somewhat like a balladeer who has decided to rebel against conventional ballads by way of a sound that detracts from their lyrics' sentimentality. The result is interesting, to say the least.

Another thing that sets Umali apart from other male singers is his willingness to sing songs originally sung by women— "Sa Isip Ko," "How Did You Know," "These Dreams," "How Do I Live," and "Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough." It makes for a unique listening experience.

HBO's 'Six Feet Under' premieres . . .

From page C2

ters help people think about life's big questions—why it's so difficult to love your relatives, why we get so upset with people we love, and why our emotions often get the better of us."

Indeed, the problems the Fishers face in the series are things we identify with. Sibling rivalry, for instance: Nate and David are in conflict because Nate abandons the family and David is left to help his dad run the business. When the father dies and Nate reluctantly helps David, he has a different management style, which results in losses for the business.

Dead-end marriage

A big conglomerate tries to buy out the Fishers but they decide to hang tough and compete with the big guys. Ruth is trapped in a dead-end marriage and has an affair to brighten her life. When her husband dies, she makes plans to travel abroad. The cop explains to Claire why he loves his brother David in spite of his uptight ways. Behind the tough exterior is a child who has a soft side to him.

There are plenty of scenes that may "shock" the viewer and this show is definitely for adult audiences only. Things happening in a mortuary are presented casually, such as the embalming process and transporting cadavers from the hospital.

In a particularly "gory" scene (gory is in quotes because it's all in the imagination), a maintenance man is squished by mistake in a grinding machine. We don't see the actual incident but our imagination takes care of that. When Nate brings home the body, the body bag drops to the floor and we hear the body parts getting mixed up. When Nate takes home another corpse from the hospital, he stops for a drink with his girl and the body stinks to high heavens.

Gay relationship

Surprisingly, the gay relationship between David and his cop-boyfriend is not depicted in an explicit manner. They hug and kiss gently and never do they go beyond that in the first three episodes. We'll see if that changes in succeeding telecasts. The fact that his boyfriend is a cop who doesn't swish like a screaming fairy is also interesting because it depicts homosexuality as a normal state of affairs.

"Six Feet Under" is highly recommended, but it definitely is not the series to watch while having dinner. That's why it's airing late in the evening.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT 12 - OCT 18

CH	SAT 12	SUN 13	MON 14	TUE 15	WED 16	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
4	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary d' Potter 9:00 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema *Dito sa Puso Ko* 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Star Awards TV*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! News Weekend 8:00 E!True Hollywood Story *Murder of a B-Movie King* 9:00 E!True Hollywood Story *Terminator* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 E! News Weekend
5	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanatayim 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Empire of the Sun* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event- *Tommy Boy* 11:00 Road Trip	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 10:30 Points of View 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank *Hottest Bachelorettes* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Dans Carvey* 10:00 Horror of Hollywood *The Bride*
7	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Biluin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahiha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & the City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E" True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Champ Elysee*
9	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Biluin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters! 9:00 Sine Shawie 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Hong Kong*
11	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Biluin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whatlaman 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Mission X	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnt Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Thailand*
13	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Biluin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Amazing Grace 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *High Seas*
15	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Biluin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games Busan 2002 (Recap)	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Gary V. On Stage Part I*	6:00 PBA Games 8:30 Challenge of the Masters 11:00 IBC News	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Survivor: Thailand 8:30 The Chronicle 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Resorts*

Fukuoka's film festival highlights 'Bagong Buwan'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE Fukuoka "Focus on Asia" International Film Festival last month was an important showcase of outstanding Asian films, led by a Filipino movie, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan." The filmfest's esteemed Director General, Tadao Sato, began his festival notes with a reference to Marilou's film:

Shocking event

"It just happened that the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on New York City last year came right before the opening of our festival. At that very moment, film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya from Philippines, who had already arrived here to accept the Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prize, was watching news coverage of this shocking event in her hotel room, in a state of utter bewilderment.

"We wanted to exhibit her latest film, 'New Moon' ('Bagong Buwan') but it wasn't ready. But we've made it a point to show it in this year's festival, because this important film addresses the serious issue of conflict between Islamic and Christian followers in the Philippines, from the sincere standpoint of both sides hoping to reach an amicable settlement.

Promise

"Just because its exhibition was delayed a year doesn't mean in the least that the extent of our need to understand the world of Islam has decreased. In fact, it has increased. As I bade Marilou Diaz-Abaya farewell last year, we made a promise to definitely exhibit her film this year. The promise has been kept."

The festival program goes on to detail how the Japanese filmfest organizers evaluate the film's strengths, significance and relevance:

"'New Moon' is a much-anticipated motion picture by one of the greatest filmmakers in the Philippines. Mindanao, the second largest island in the country, has been home to many Muslims for centuries. They have bravely fought against invasion by Spain, the United States and Japan.

New turn

"After the Philippines became independent, their cause took a new turn as a separatist movement. In 1996, during the Aquino government, the largest Islamic armed force, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Philippine government made a peace agreement.

"However, neither the Moro Islamic Liberation Front nor the Abu Sayyaf, known for kidnapping foreigners, have consented to the agreement. Their extreme use of violence drove then President Estrada to take strong measures against Islamic separatists in 2000, and they entered into a state of war.

DIAZ-ABAYA. With her film, the Philippines has joined a great cinematic dialogue to clarify one of the most important and troubling issues of our time.

Majority

"The fact that the majority of the Philippine population is Christian has made the war appear to some to be a battle between Christians and Muslims, which reminds us of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York. However, the film tells us that many have been killed by internal strife among Muslims.

"The two young boys Rashid and Francis shaking hands, and a straightforward look on a girl's face at the end of the film, express the director's wish to never give up hope for the future."

Praised

The reaction to the film at the Fukuoka filmfest was very strong, and the production was praised for the informed, sensitive way with which it used cinema to dramatize conflicts and issues that would otherwise have been misunderstood or mis-appreciated.

Now that "Bagong Buwan" is being shown abroad, greater understanding on an international level can finally be achieved, and the Philippines has joined other countries that have embarked on a great cinematic dialogue to clarify one of the most important and troubling issues of our time.

Manggas pa lang, pambili na ng gamot.

Sa presyo ng bagong t-shirt mo, kapiraso lang nito ang kailangan para makatulong sa mga batang mahihirap. O kaya, an hour's worth of your earnings.

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Hollywood films made in the Philippines remembered

By Behn Cervantes

(Continuation)

GEORGE Montgomery would return to the Philippines for at least three more films, which exploited beautiful Filipino locales, the wil'ingness of the Filipinos to work on Hollywood projects, the availability of experienced supporting players, extras and movie technicians, and the great economic advantages of shooting movies here.

Action films

Cornel Wilde discovered the Philippines during this Hollywood invasion. He shot action films here including "Red Beach" in Leyte, and "Manila Calling" with his platinum-blonde wife Jean Wallace.

There was also an American actor who attracted the attention of the local press because he bore a close resemblance to Marlon Brando. The lookalike would strike it big a decade later with a "Playgirl" centerfold, and evolve into the macho Burt Reynolds.

Adul de Leon had worked as an assistant of longtime American resident Bill Kane, the local coordinator for many of the Hollywood films shot here. Adul got Lino Brocka (out of school at the time) as a script boy for the Kane group. Both Lino and Adul worked closely with Eddie Romero, who either directed or scripted some of these productions.

Lino would regularly regale me with all kinds of anecdotes about these Hollywood movie actors. He was a script boy for "Intramuros: Walls of Hell" starring Jock Mahoney and our very own Fernando Poe Jr. With Mahoney and Poe joining forces, could the Japanese Imperial Army possibly win? No, sireee! The duo shot them all dead.

Balding pate

Lino also told me how sad he was when he caught the formerly handsome John Saxon hiding behind some bushes to paint black Tancho Tique on his balding pate. Saxon came back to shoot more films after his first one here.

PEREZ. American critics were impressed with her talent and soulful eyes.

The biggest Hollywood break for a Filipino actor was given to Barbara Perez, hailed as the Audrey Hepburn of the Philippines. She was cast in "No Man Is an Island," a war film starring Jeffrey Hunter, the blue-eyed actor who portrayed Christ in the remake of "King of Kings."

US critics were quite impressed with Barbara's talent and soulful eyes, and she was offered other Hollywood projects. However, the Sampaguita star opted for marriage to Robert Arevalo over possible international stardom.

Standout

Also quite a standout in the film was a supporting player portraying a Japanese interpreter. He was Lamberto V. Avellana. His nonchalantly fine performance reminded many that he was one of the Ateneo's best stage actors before he directed "Sakay" and became one of our greatest film directors just before the Pacific War. He would then become National Artist for Cinema and Theater.

John Derek, once dubbed by Hollywood cinematographers as the "handsomest actor on screen," came here in 1963 to shoot "No Toys for Christmas," a rather forgettable film that he also directed. Derek brought along his shapely Swiss wife, whom he photographed nude against the glorious falls of Pagsanjan. Her statuesque beauty resulted in stunning pictures the smart Derek sold to Playboy magazine.

The photos made his wife, Ursula Andress, an international sex goddess who soon made bigger waves when she emerged like Venus rising from the sea in "Dr. No," starring Sean Connery as James Bond, Secret Agent 007.

Assistant

George Maharis shot a film here with Nehemiah Persoff, with the exotic title, "Destination: Mindanao." An assistant in that production was a Manila newcomer named Norma Japitana. The girl from Negros is now better known as Norma J.

Another actor who shot a movie here was George Nader. This well-built bachelor was a contract star of Universal International during the heyday of Tony Curtis, Piper Laurie, Julia Adams and Rock Hudson. It is said that George M, George N and Rock had similar preferences, if you get my drift.

Jeff Chandler, who was then a major Hollywood star, shot his last film, "Merrill's Marauders" also in Pasumil. I remember inviting Lino over to watch the shooting in the sugarcane fields because my father then managed the Central. It was the day Ty Hardin found a frightened but comely native girl and carried her off to safety after a Japanese attack. The girl was played by LVN star Luz Valdez.

The biggest role for a Filipino in that film went to Pancho Magalona, billed as Enrique Magalona. He later starred in another Hollywood film, "Hook" with Kirk Douglas, Nehemiah Persoff and Robert Walker Jr. *(To be concluded)*

Joey Reyes reveals his spiritual side

By Edmund L. Sicam

JOEY Reyes, who directed the controversial "Live Show," reveals his spiritual side in the Star Cinema production, "Nine Mornings," starring Piolo Pascual and Donita Rose.

"I'm multi-faceted," says *direk* Joey. This is a movie about faith, not necessarily about religion. I want it to be a movie that covers everything . . . it's an ecumenical movie using a Catholic event, the *Simbang Gabi*."

Script changes

Joey usually writes the script for his movies. This time, he worked with Antonio Sison, who is a Ph.D student in liberation theology in the Netherlands. "Basically, the story is Sison's," Joey explains. "If ever there were changes, it was just to make it shoot-able. And practicable, given a reasonable budget, because the original script was just so big. And the dialogue changed because I'm very particular about dialogue—I made it a little more palatable to the audience."

"Nine Mornings" won the second prize in the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines scriptwriting contest. Joey understands how writers feel about directors mangling their scripts, so he made it a point to ask permission from Sison when changes were needed.

"*Kasi* baby *niya yan, e. Kung baga,* caretaker *lang ako.* In the past, I have cringed at what directors did to my scripts so I wouldn't want that to happen to anyone. And he was on the set . . . film buff *siya na mahilig sa* theology."

Direk Joey reveals that he was offered this film the very same day he was fired from the ABS-CBN soap, "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka." "*Sabi ko,* I hate to be cosmological about this, but I believe *kasi na lahat ng mangyari sa buhay mo may dahilan. Walang aksidente.* Because I couldn't have done this movie if I were doing the soap opera.

"When I read this script, *sabi ko,* my gosh, this is what it's all about *pala.* There are absolutely no accidents. There's a reason why He wanted me to do it. I understood what Tonton, the writer, wanted to say. And I also added my own dimension, based on my own experience."

Lesson

Joey shares the lesson he learned: "Our happiness is always equated with our financial security, on amassing wealth. And then you realize—*kahit na gaano kalaki yung kinikita mo, wala namang kahulugan yun* in the long run. So it's a question of what you do with your life."

This is his first time to work with Donita. How was it? "It was good, we were jamming. And I explained her role to her —a girl who cannot let go of a past love, *kaya hindi siya maka*-move on. It's a love story that goes beyond two people falling in love. It's about two people filling up each other."

Opposition

How about his experience with "Live Show," what lessons did he learn from that? "I dedicated my life from October to the end of January working for the opposition. And going through all those political experiences was so enriching —all the way up to Edsa 2. Then, the first thing I got was a national humiliation. So *sabi ko,* where is the justice in this?

"And then I realized, when you do something that you think is right, do not expect to be rewarded for it. You do it because it's right. If you do something for your country, do it not because you want a position of power. It wasn't a question of pornography, it was a question of politics."

"NINE Mornings" topbills Donita Rose, Piolo Pascual, Belinda Panelo and Dominic Ochoa.

Is he in the opposition again? "No . . . I've taken to heart the first line of Obi-Wan to Anakin—never trust politicians! I think you can be a good citizen even without having to dabble in politics—just do what you're supposed to do." Would he direct another "Live Show"? "Yes—given the right opportunity and material, as long as I won't be exploited."

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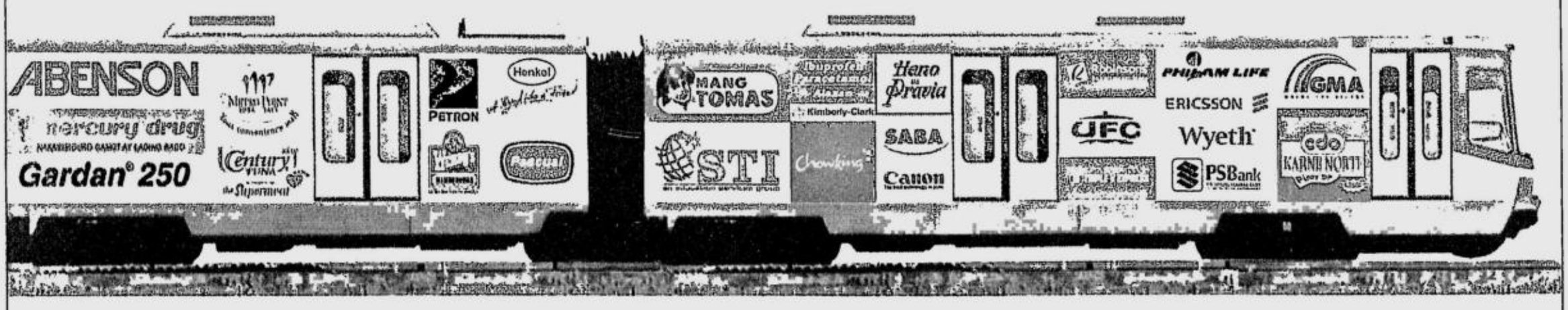

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New films topbill Theron, Eastwood and Sandler

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT have our favorite stars been up to lately? Charlize Theron and Kevin Bacon co-star in "Trapped," a film about the perfect crime—or so its perpetrators think. The crime is alleged to be perfect because it isn't reported.

No clues

Some criminals seize control of their environment so convincingly and cover their tracks so effectively that they leave no clues. And their victims are so terrified that they retreat into silence.

The victimizers are played by Kevin Bacon and Courtney Love. As for Theron, she plays the mother of their latest abductee, a six-year-old girl named Abby. When she is kidnapped, her parents are given only 24 hours to try to get her back.

It is this deadline that charges the film with unusual intensity, as the parents discover how far they will go to get their daughter back alive. To make things even more daunting, Abby's mother and father are trapped in different cities.

Meanwhile, Clint Eastwood may already be in his 70s, but by no means is he over-the-hill as a performer, as proven by his latest starrer as both actor and director, "Blood Work."

The movie may be his 44th outing as actor and his 23rd as director, but it is still focused and exciting, and Eastwood in fact gets some of his best notices for his work in this new film.

Eastwood has remained popular and admired through the decades because he makes it a point to change with the times. He acknowledges the fact that he isn't as fit and agile as he used to be, so he's replaced physical action with other, more psychological and scientific ways to crack his latest case.

EASTWOOD. Changes with the times.

THERON. Plays a young mother in 'Trapped.'

SANDLER. Nice guy in a materialistic world.

Psychopath

This time around, his prey is a psychopath who is also a serial killer. In developing the movie's plot, Eastwood fuses twin concerns: it's a detective story, but it's also about a unique human bond.

The movie turns very personal when Eastwood discovers that one of the psychopath's victims was the same woman who donated her heart to Eastwood's character after he had a massive heart attack.

It's this unique twist that makes "Blood Work" different from Eastwood's other starrers. What surprises will he spring on us, the next time around?

Title role

In Adam Sandler's case, his latest career-development challenge is his decision to remake and update a 1936 classic by Frank Capra, "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," with Gary Cooper playing the title role. The celebrated film is a tough act to follow, or duplicate, but Sandler gives it his best shot.

Mr. Deeds, as Sandler's update tells it, is a nice guy from a very small town whose values are assaulted when he inherits his late uncle's media empire.

Fear

The fear is that his late uncle's wealth, power and celebrity will change him for the worse, but he surprises everyone when he changes *them.*

Winona Ryder is also in the film, as a cynical tabloid TV reporter who poses as a small town girl in order to do an expose on the new billionnire. However, she ends up falling in love with him, and helps him prove his point that, even in the materialistic and unethical world of business, goodness is its own reward.

Mariel Ilusorio and Joel Trinidad, born artists

By Jonathan Arevalo Coo

TRINIDAD. 2002 is his lucky year.

THEY may be passion-driven because they are in their early 30s. They need not try their "luck" because they are born with "celebrity blood." They don't need connections to become famous.

Dedication

But beyond all the fuss and buzz, the concept of greatness for both Mariel Ilusorio and Joel Trinidad lies their dedication to their art. What matters most is that they "sing" to the depths of their souls. And that's what makes them special.

My memories of Mariel Ilusorio go way back to when I was a student at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling. My piano teacher broke protocol and made me go down to Manila in the middle of the week because she wanted me to hear a pianist "who can make the piano sing!" Mariel was studying at the Juilliard Pre-College Division at that time.

Recording

In a recent concert of Mariel at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall, I bought her newly released recording. In that CD is the same Mozart Sonata (K. 576) I heard Mariel play during my high school days.

In the concert, her Mozart Sonata (K. 330) continued to prove Mariel's trademark—purity of sound and melodies that breathe. I would have personally wanted more dynamic contrasts, but my style tends to be "Beethovenian."

These days though, Mariel doesn't only "sing" on the piano, she is also a painter. She may be German-trained (she's been studying in Hannover since 1995) but her Debussy will impress you the most. Just like Wilhelm Kempff, who mastered French "Impressionism."

Indeed, her solo and chamber music recitals in Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Austria and Switzerland and her yearly visits to the Philippines to play and teach aspiring artists have made Mariel Ilusorio the Philippine's pride and gem!

(Call the Manila Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation at 813-3849 to inquire about Mariel's latest recording.)

Co-stars

As for Joel Trinidad, 2002 seems to be his lucky year. After co-starring with Lea Salonga in "Proof" and Jake Macapagal in "Falsettos," he is now Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing," and before the year ends, he will star as Brad in "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

He would rather do musicals, although he enjoys straight plays. He admits that when he started his career in musical theater, in "Alikabok," his voice wasn't fully developed. That's why, Joel says, "I'd like Ryan Cayabyab to hear how I've improved after seven years!"

When Joel told me, "I love acting enough to do it for free," I had to ask him to repeat what he said—slowly!

Mariel, on the other hand, could have been making millions as a stockholder, but she chose a domesticated life in Hannover in order to live her art.

Social responsibility

Joel touched me when he portrayed an Aids victim. Mariel took time to perform for schools in Bacolod and Iloilo during her recent visit to the Philippines. It is inspiring to see that social responsibility goes along with their art.

Our young talents like KC Concepcion and Paolo Valenciano were born for stardom. But, like Mariel and Joel, they will be valued by the public depending on their "concept of greatness." The genes may be thicker, but what matters most is how our "celebrity-blooded" artists enthrall the Filipino soul.

Robbie Williams signs big record deal with EMI

LONDON—Pop star Robbie Williams said Wednesday that he'd signed a new deal with record label EMI that makes him "rich beyond my wildest dreams."

The singer's representatives call the new deal a 'multi-platform' approach to the 'respective elements of recording, live work, film and television'

Contract

Williams would not comment on a report in Britain's Sun tabloid that the multi-album contract was worth 80 million pounds ($125 million).

The 28-year-old performer said, "My mum said it would be really uncouth of me to talk about money—but I'm rich beyond my wildest dreams."

EMI spokeswoman Cathy Cremer said the reported figure was "complete and total speculation."

Asked by reporters what he planned to do with the cash, Williams replied, "I'm going to count it all."

Williams, speaking at the west London offices of his management company, was joined by Tony Wadsworth, head of EMI in Britain.

"We have heard the new album 'Escapology' and it is undoubtedly his best album yet," Wadsworth said.

"That's not just a bunch of hot air," Williams said. "It really is the best thing I've ever done. I'm looking forward to getting out there and performing it. This is the first album I'm really proud of."

Minimum

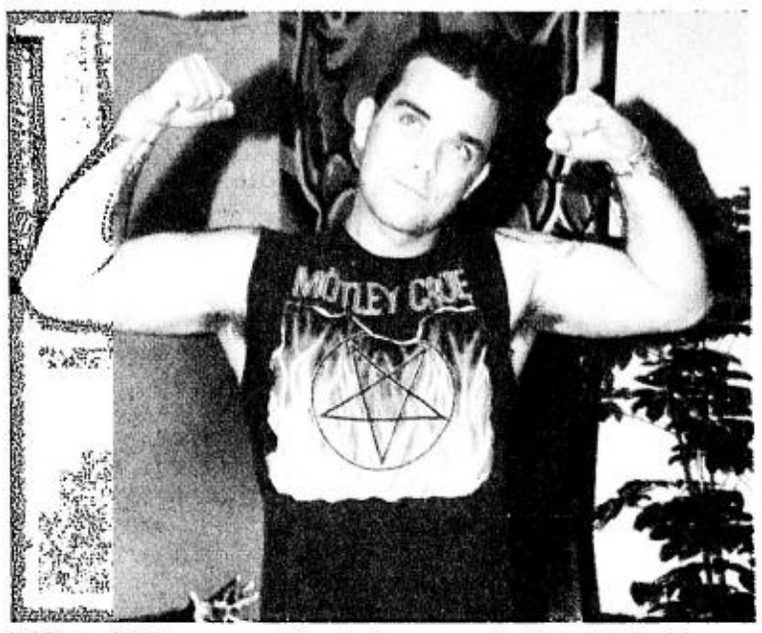
Under the long-term deal, which is for a minimum of six albums, EMI will take a cut of Williams' touring, merchandising and publishing. Most artists get just a small percentage of the profits on record sales. Performing live is often where the real money is to be made.

Publishing profits also help to fill the coffers, and as co-author of most of his songs, Williams has benefited from this. Some of this now looks likely to go to the label.

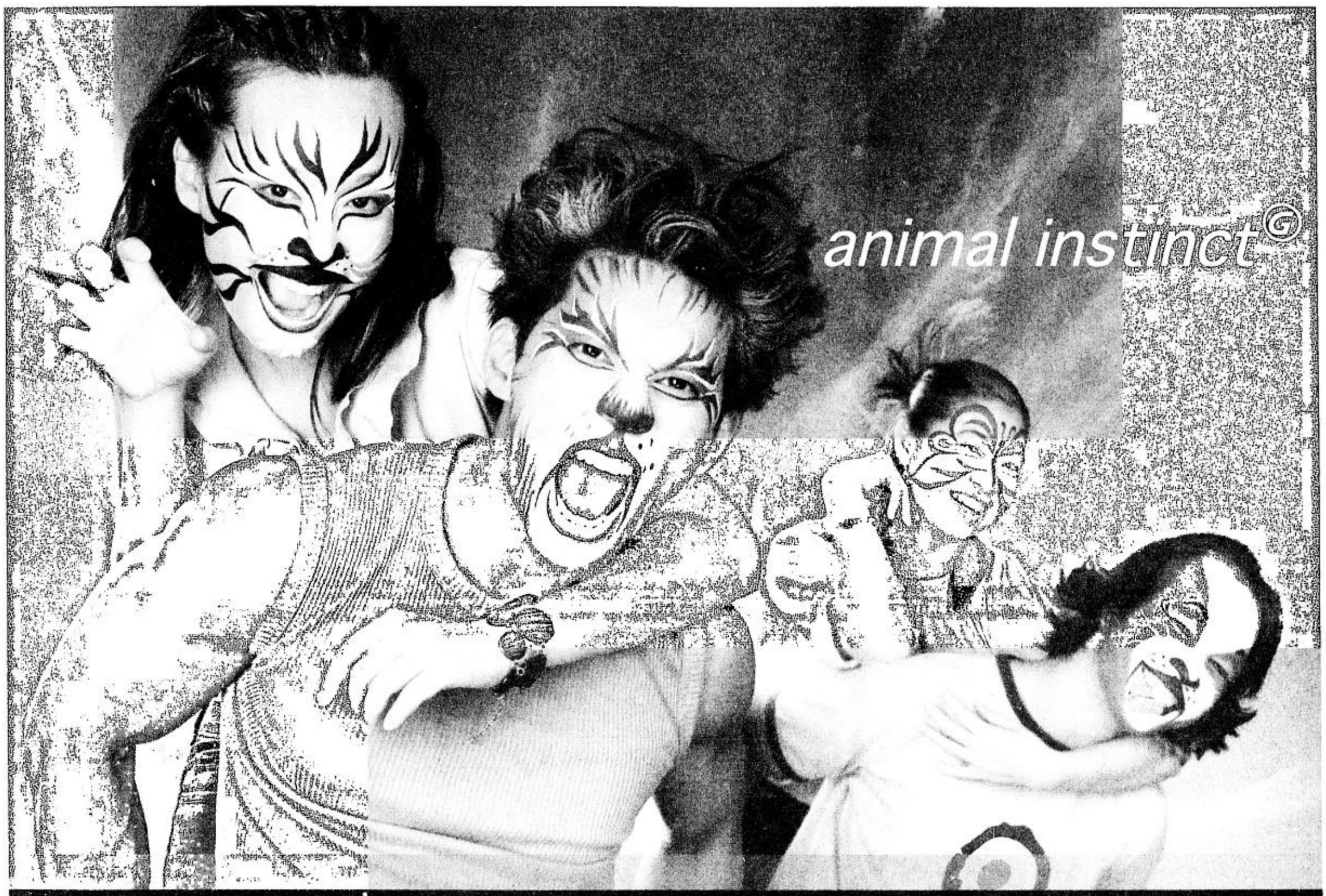
The singer's representatives called the new deal a "multi-platform" approach to the "respective elements of recording, live work, film and television."

Williams, who first found fame with boy band Take That, has sold nearly 10 million albums in Britain. He has won 13 Brit Awards, including nine as a solo artist.

An EMI big-money deal proved costly in the past. The company signed Mariah Carey to its Virgin label in 2001 in a much-hyped deal reported to be worth as much as $100 million. The company dropped her in January with a $28 million payout, after her first disc for the label, "Glitter," was a poor seller. *AP*



POP star Williams poses after signing a new deal last Oct. 2 with record label EMI, which is rumored to be the biggest ever clinched by a British artist. AFP



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NICE TO KNOW YOU	nice2knw	INCUBUS
WASTING MY TIME	wastingmy	DEFAULT
WHEN I FALL IN LOVE	whenifal	KEN BOOTHE
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19-2000	19200	GORILLAZ
I LOVE ROCK 'N ROLL	llovroc	BRITNEY SPEARS
THERE YOU'LL BE	thereyou	FAITH HILL
BOYS	boys	BRITNEY SPEARS
HORNY	horny	MOUSSE T.
BETTER OFF ALONE	betterof	ALICE DEEJAY
I'M EVERY WOMAN	imevrywo	WHITNEY HOUSTTON
MMM BOP	mmmbop	HANSON
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SATURDAY *Special*

Jennifer Love Hewitt sparkles in 'Tuxedo'

HEWITT. Major revelation.

By Ben Nuckols

BALTIMORE—Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker—inspired. Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson—gangbusters. Jackie Chan and Jennifer Love Hewitt—huh?

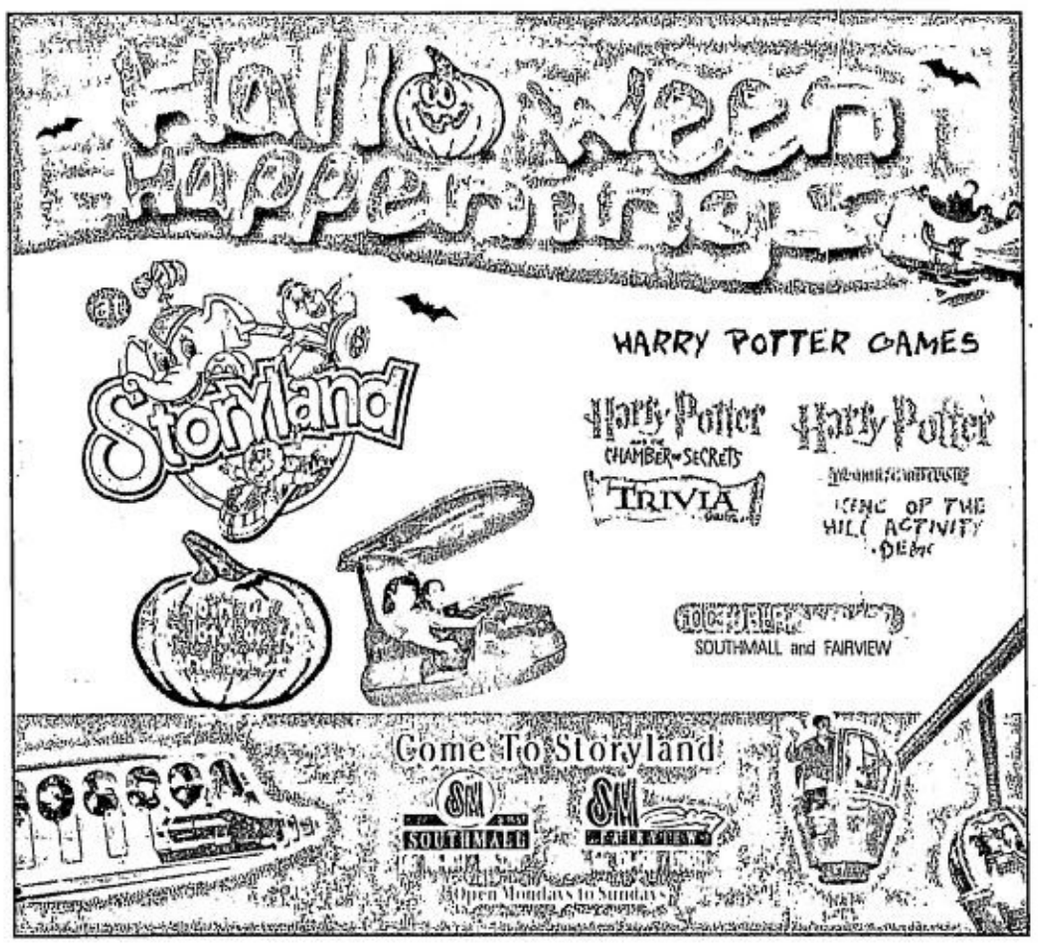
In "The Tuxedo," Chan survives the strangest pairing yet of his lucrative second career in American odd-couple action comedies. But the major revelation is Hewitt, who shines like a supernova.

Rookie operative

Alternately pouty and cutesy in "Party of Five" and the "I Know What You Did Last Summer" series, Hewitt uses this unlikely vehicle to grow up in a big way. She fills out a role that's nothing on the page—a rookie operative in a vaguely defined intelligence agency—with feisty confidence and improvisational spirit.

All that really matters acting-wise in a movie like this is to make the audience want to watch you. Beauty helps, and Hewitt is no slouch in that department, cheerfully conspiring in the exploitation of her gravity-defying figure.

JENNIFER/ D2



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Fuller, more eventful storytelling needed in 'Bituin'

By Nestor U. Torre

EVER since Nora Aunor's new TV soap opera, "Bituin," started telecasting weeknights on Channel 2, we've been watching it in the hope that it would shape up to be a dramatic vehicle worthy of the well-honed thespic gifts of the country's original Superstar.

Gratified

At first, we were gratified to see that the new production was refusing to follow the hysterical, convoluted lead of most of the other soaps now on the tube. Instead, it chose to focus on the conflict between two adoptive sisters (Nora and Cherie Gil).

Soon enough in the storytelling, Cherie acquired one of Nora's two young daughters for herself, breaking Nora's heart. Later, they resumed staying together in the same house, but Nora and the daughter left with her were treated like poor relations.

Ironic

This is both tragic and ironic, because Nora doesn't know that her adoptive father had willed her valuable pieces of real estate that would make her very rich in her own right.

The third major unfortunate development is Nora's blaming her woes in life on her music gift, and thus forbidding the daughter played by Carol Banawa from making use of her fine singing voice. Ironically, the daughter Cherie has appropriated for herself is being forced by her "mother" to become a singer, even if she doesn't have the talent for it.

Adoptive mother

After some nights of telecasting, another *contravida* entered Nora's woebegone life in the person of her congenitally arch-eyebrowed adoptive mother, portrayed by Celia Rodriguez.

Cherie and Celia's evil machinations are balanced only by Nora's loyal friend, a kind-hearted "fairy godmother" played by Gardo Verzosa. Thus far, however, he has been unable to prevent the series' two resident viragos from making Nora's life a living hell.

So far, so straightforward. After some telecasts, however, the soap's "controlled" storyline feels too thin and repetitious to hold viewers' attention. There's something to be said for the absence of hysteria, but the series errs on the side of thinness, dryness and lack of texture and flair.

Control

We appreciate Nora's control in her emotional scenes, but her sad episodes are too similar for her to come up with varied thespic "attacks" on her role. Thus, her performance has become predictable after only a few weeks.

The plotting is so thin that the soap makes a big deal out of relatively small symbolic totems, like the dress Nora gave her other daughter for her birthday, which was in turn given by Cherie to a maid. Nora had a big emotional reaction to the insult, and it went on and on until it had lost its proper dramatic pertinence to the story.

Good drama

"Bituin" has planted the seeds of good drama with its story about a mother who pines so much for the daughter who's been taken away from her that she ends up neglecting the daughter who's loyally stayed by her side all these years.

But the series needs to add subplots and introduce new characters to add texture and resonance to its storytelling. Otherwise, it could find itself going around in ever-constricting circles, until some viewers may well decide that they no longer care to go along for the ride.

AUNOR. Should be given more to do than just suffer.

Full expressiveness

In addition, Nora should be given more to do than just suffer. This "*kawawa*" stereotype has hounded her through her long career, and it has limited her full expressiveness as an actress. Her character needs to be made more dynamic, and to be put in different situations that will compel her to react in varied and even conflicting ways, so that viewers can see her in different dimensions, aside from her overused "pathetic victim" stereotype.

The shift may be difficult, but a great actress like Nora deserves nothing less.

Jennifer Love Hewitt sparkles in 'The Tuxedo'

From page D1

But more important is an ability to cut loose, to let your guard down and have a smashing time in front of the camera. That's star quality, and Hewitt has it: She looks like there's no place else she'd rather be. Not since Elizabeth Hurley in the first "Austin Powers" movie has an actress sunk her teeth into something so silly and made such magic.

Effortlessly adorable

Chan is himself: a brilliant physical performer who's also effortlessly adorable, using light-speed facial muscles to convey emotion with zealous abandon. He and Hewitt bounce off one another, and that's the movie—purely a vehicle for its stars. "The Tuxedo" would be nothing without them; with them, it's an enjoyable nothing.

The concept is almost too dense to be believed: that Jackie Chan—Jackie Chan!—needs a billion-dollar tux to turn into the quicksilver, gravity-defying dervish we know and love.

"The Tuxedo" contradicts its own premise at the utset, when a T-shirt-and-jeans-clad Chan, as cab driver Jimmy Tong, eludes a meathead bicyclist who's slammed into the door of his taxi. It's good to see that Chan can still pull off old-fashioned stunt work, since through the rest of the movie he'll be embellished by cheesy digital effects.

Jimmy's driving skills get him hired as a chauffeur for super-spy Clark Devlin (Jason Isaacs), a James Bond figure who tells Jimmy that 90 percent of his charm and confidence comes from his expensive suits. Jimmy soon finds out how true that is, when an injured Devlin instructs Jimmy to put on his precious tux and continue his work.

Bacterium

The villain is a bottled-water baron who's developing a bacterium that causes people to die of thirst. Monkey-suit-clad Jimmy teams up with rookie spy Del Blaine (Hewitt) to stop the evil genius.

A technological marvel, the tux can make its wearer do—well, anything. When James Brown shows up in a cameo, and Jimmy unintentionally KO's him, it's no worry, because the tux allows Jimmy to sing and dance exactly like James Brown. This sort of thing would be tiresome if not for Chan and Hewitt, who bring good cheer to the lame material.

"The Tuxedo" delights in its silliness: It's a live-action cartoon dedicated to being nothing but. It was shot in Toronto, which many filmmakers use as a cheap stand-in for more distinctive cities. But first-time director Kevin Donovan actually uses Toronto's capacity for urban anonymity in an intelligent way—the movie takes place in an anonymous, unnamed city. The license plates on the cars read: "Freedom, The Great State."

Donovan has a welcome lightness of touch: He understands that too many details would just bog the movie down. "The Tuxedo" clicks despite the flimsy computer effects, the scattershot action sequences and the murky, muddy cinematography. It runs on charm and human energy, which Chan and Hewitt have in abundance. They're lightning unbottled.

"The Tuxedo," a Dreamworks release, runs 96 minutes. Three stars (out of four). *AP*

O'CONNOR, once the quintessential angry young woman of pop music, now wants to soothe listeners with the ancient Irish melodies on her new CD, "Sean-Nos Nua." AP

Sinead O'Connor now wants to make soothing music

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—Once the quintessential angry young woman, Sinead O'Connor has a new mission with her music: She wants to soothe you.

New CD

O'Connor, who sings ancient Irish melodies on her new CD "Sean-Nos Nua," loves nothing more than being the quietest act on the bill at music festivals, lowering the pulse rates of sweaty rock 'n' roll fans.

Is this the same Sinead O'Connor, the bald battler who was the most polarizing figure in music a decade ago?

Back then, she incurred Frank Sinatra's wrath by refusing to let "The Star-Spangled Banner" play before a concert, and ripped apart a picture of Pope John Paul II on live television in a protest against the Catholic Church.

Even her look—a strikingly beautiful Irishwoman with a shaved head—was confrontational.

"I'm 35 years of age," she said. "The difference between 20 and 35 is pretty enormous, isn't it? I was lucky to have an arena to express things. That's why most people get into bands, because they're (angry) and they want a way to express it.

"But the whole point of doing that is that you move on to something calmer."

Hostility

Her behavior probably permanently marginalized her career; the chances were small that an artist who engendered such hostility (she was booed off a Madison Square Garden stage at a Bob Dylan tribute concert) could recover with a mainstream audience. Age might have whittled down her audience by this point anyway; musicians don't stay young and hip forever.

A decade later, this leaves her without a major label deal—but with the freedom to pursue some musical dreams.

One was to record some very traditional Irish music, the kind that parents of her fans would listen to. She's been wanting to do this for a dozen years, she said, and felt she would "go insane" if she didn't.

"The songs got under my skin and I couldn't stop hearing them," said O'Connor, who now has close-cropped black hair. "I'd walk around the house singing them."

O'Connor learned many of the songs she sings on "Sean-Nos Nua" while growing up, from her father or in school. Even in Ireland, a lot of young people want nothing to do with the music.

"People think it's really uncool," she said. "The sex got taken out of Irish music so it isn't really appealing to young people.

Traditional music

"You have what I call 'trad-heads,' who are really into traditional music and don't want to change it," she said. "They say it must be played the way it always has. Because they're kind of stuck in a box about it, it became unappealing to younger people or to up-and-coming songwriters."

O'Connor tried to dress up some of the songs in more modern or exotic rhythms, including Jamaican dancehall, and revive some passion in the lyrics. A song like "My Lagan Love," for instance, is about a man returning from a journey and eager to see his lover, but through the years the sexual tension was removed from many interpretations, she said.

O'Connor feels something supernatural in much of the music. AP

Vina Morales holds her first major concert

By Edmund L. Sicam

VINA Morales turns a year older this month, and what better way to celebrate this special event than by holding a major concert, "Vina Revealed," on Oct. 26 at the Folk Arts Theater? "A lot of people haven't seen me perform live in a concert so we're really preparing for it," Vina tells us.

Secret talents

This concert will definitely reveal some of Vina's secret talents. But how about some personal secrets? Vina laughs, "We'll see. But I'll do it through songs. Honestly, I'm not hiding my personal life, but right now, I really enjoy being single. It's fun to date, but right now, that's not my priority."

She's been going mostly on group dates—that's where it starts. "You have to get to know the person first through a group of friends." Does she go on blind dates? "I don't, I get scared. *Baka mamaya mabulag ako. . .*" she laughs heartily. And no, she doesn't kiss on the first date.

So what does Vina look for in a guy? "I don't know what I want. I'm at this stage *na* I'm not looking for a particular person right now . . . I'm happy now because my career is doing well. I have to pay more attention to my work . . . because when you're in love, *medyo nawawala ang* concentration *mo*."

Career-oriented

Vina is focused on her career right now. "Work blessings are coming in, so why not grab the opportunity? After that, you'll never know, *baka* I might find somebody from nowhere . . ."

Is marriage anywhere on the horizon for her? "I don't think I'm ready for that. *Ngayon ko lang na*realize that it's fun to be single. Especially when I travel, I meet a lot of people. *Parang*, wow . . . *ang dami ko palang dapat makilala pa.*"

Would she date a mama's boy? "Why not? It means that he really loves his parents, that he's a caring and loving person." Someone much younger? "I don't know. Maybe." Much older? "*Mahirap na yun. papa na ang dating nun.*"

Would she date someone from show biz? She says she's afraid of the intrigue. "I'm more careful now. *Hindi mo alam kung anong takbo ng isip niya*, because *siyem-*

VINA/ D4

MORALES. Enjoys being unattached.

3 Things You Shouldn't Miss While in Biñan.

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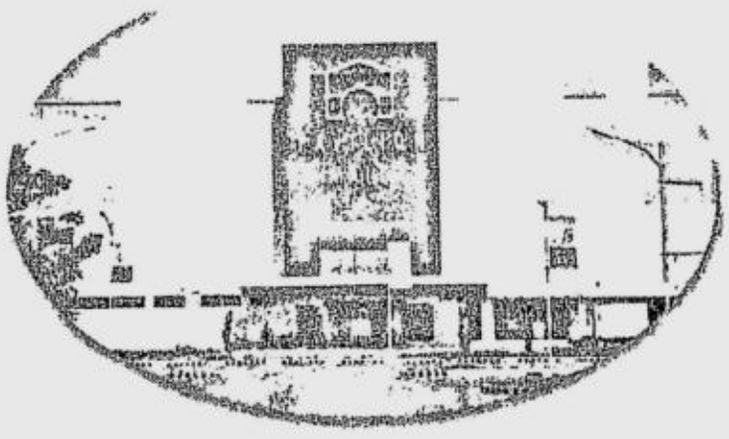

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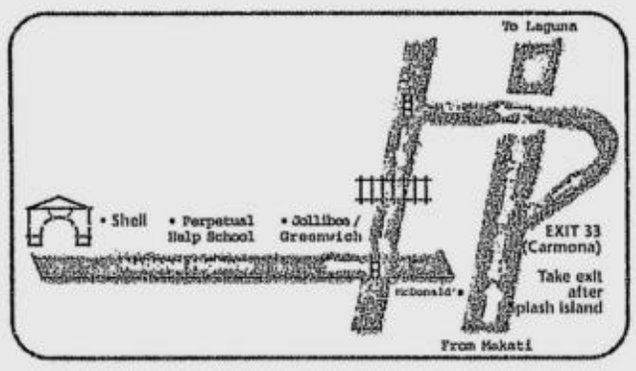

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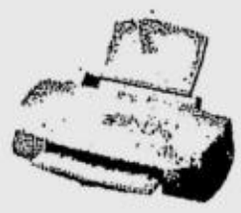

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Running and screaming on the set of a Godzilla movie

By Kenji Hall and Chisaki Watanabe

YOKOHAMA, Japan—A slope-shouldered man with a megaphone squinted into the sun and pointed at the bay beyond the amusement park square where we stood.

Harbor

"There," said assistant director Atsushi Kaneshige, gesturing at the peaceful blue harbor where yachts tugged at their moorings. "That's where Godzilla will rise out of the water."

He didn't expect us to actually see anything.

He was trying to motivate us. As extras in the latest Godzilla movie, he wanted us to imagine being chased by the giant, genetically altered dinosaur, stomped on, ripped apart by its talons, chomped up and swallowed.

Nearly five decades after "Godzilla" made its debut on the big screen, the monster born from a nuclear accident is returning, for the 26th time, to fight an equally menacing mechanical version of himself.

Sound familiar?

Three generations

It should. Godzilla has beaten three generations of Mechagodzillas, twice in the mid-1970s and most recently in 1993.

Tomiyama refused to reveal much about the plot. But he said the final battle scene would rehash a theme of the 1960s and 1970s Godzilla movies, when the giant reptile often saved the human race from its modernization-at-all-costs mentality.

Modernization has come much slower for the filmmakers themselves, however.

Except for one embarrassing departure—the hugely unsuccessful high-budget, Hollywood-style Godzilla movie made in America in 1998—the mutant icon hasn't strayed far from its low-tech origins.

Known in Japan as "Gojira," from a combination of the words for gorilla and whale, the monster first appeared in director Ishiro Honda's 1954 classic with an actor in a zipped-up rubber suit slashing through miniature buildings and toppling telephone poles.

That hasn't changed.

Unable to match Hollywood's budget-intense whiz-bang special effects, Japan's Toho Studios—limited to $8.3 million, tiny compared to the $100 million TriStar spent on its 1998 "Godzilla" disaster—has stuck to old-fashioned filmmaking.

Rubber outfit

Although Godzilla appears to be a towering 172 feet on film, it is still played by an actor in a 110-pound rubber outfit, who has to breathe through a small tube in the monster's neck.

Once suited up, he tears apart sets that have been glued together piece by piece and are accurate right down to the building-top advertisements and traffic signs.

Unusual camera angles and cinematic tricks borrowed from Alfred Hitchcock movies add suspense and give the monster its on-screen presence.

GODZILLA, right, fights Mechagodzilla during a demonstration at the Toho film studio in Tokyo . Nearly five decades after "Godzilla" made its debut on the big screen, the monster born from a nuclear accident is returning, for the 26th time, to fight an equally menacing mechanical version of itself. AP

For us extras, there would be no sightings of Godzilla. Or even of the little man in the rubber suit.

Instead, the 300 of us—middle-aged men, families, couples—spent an entire Sunday repeatedly sprinting away from his imagined threat. First, we ran from a plaza up a flight of stairs. Then we ran along a wooden seaside boardwalk. Then it was off to a nearby industrial strip, where we ran and ran, and ran some more.

Not a whole lot is required of an extra in a Godzilla film.

There were no lines to memorize, no props to carry. All we had to do was run—without opening our mouths, that was the hard part—and act terrified. Or not. All we really had to do was run.

Our battle cry:

"Yoooi, staaaaato!" (Ready. Action!)

Off we bolted, past picnic tables and soldiers with prop guns, past the camera, bounding to the top of the steps that marked our finish line.

Souvenir

At noon, we were given a free lunch. When the day was over, we got a Godzilla shirt as a souvenir.

Godzilla remains one of Japan's most enduring icons of the post-World War II era, reemerging every few years to warn about the hazards of the country's rush to modernize.

In the postwar years, the nation basked in its newfound prosperity and all signs of its war-devastated cities were wiped clean by new buildings, roads and dams—often at the expense of its forests and rivers.

"Godzilla has always been the enemy of science and technology," said Dr. Toshio Takahashi, a Waseda University professor who has written several books about the monster's cultural status. "It adapts to changes in society, and it's a reminder about what could happen if we throw away the past to pursue the future."

Over the years, anything with the potential to destroy civilization has roused the monster from its deep-sea lair. Scriptwriters have woven in themes of nuclear bombs, economic expansion, space travel, the Cold War, pollution, defense technology and biotechnology to keep formulaic storylines current. The movies are always set in the near future.

Blend

The result is a blend of cautionary tale and savage, kitschy fun that keeps the faithful coming back for more. According to Toho, Godzilla movies have drawn a combined 95 million people.

"Godzilla offers a looking glass on society. That theme runs throughout all the movies," director Masaaki Tezuka said. "Godzilla exists because people exist."

Yasunori Imai, a shy man with frizzy bleached hair, had been an extra in the last six Godzilla movies. This was his seventh.

A Godzilla collector since he was 5, Imai said his house is filled with every Godzilla video, laser disc and DVD ever sold, and his head with esoteric movie trivia. He brightened when he recalled the one time he spotted himself on film.

"I will do anything to be of use to Godzilla," said Imai, who is 42.

That sort of dedication convinced Toho to bring Godzilla back after flagging profits and the 1975 flop "Terror of Mechagodzilla" forced them to shelve the series.

Looking for a way to cap costs and stir interest in the revival in the early 1980s, Toho executives offered loyalists a cameo in the movie. More than 1,000 people showed up for the filming, and Toho has used volunteer extras ever since.

"We realized that having fans in the movie was a great way of communicating with them," said Tomiyama, who has been executive producer for the last 10 Godzilla movies and has run as an extra in most of them.

Behemoth

Still, for many first-timers, a shot at sharing the big screen with the fire-breathing behemoth turned out to be more work than they had bargained for. The summer heat and the wait between takes made the day pass slowly.

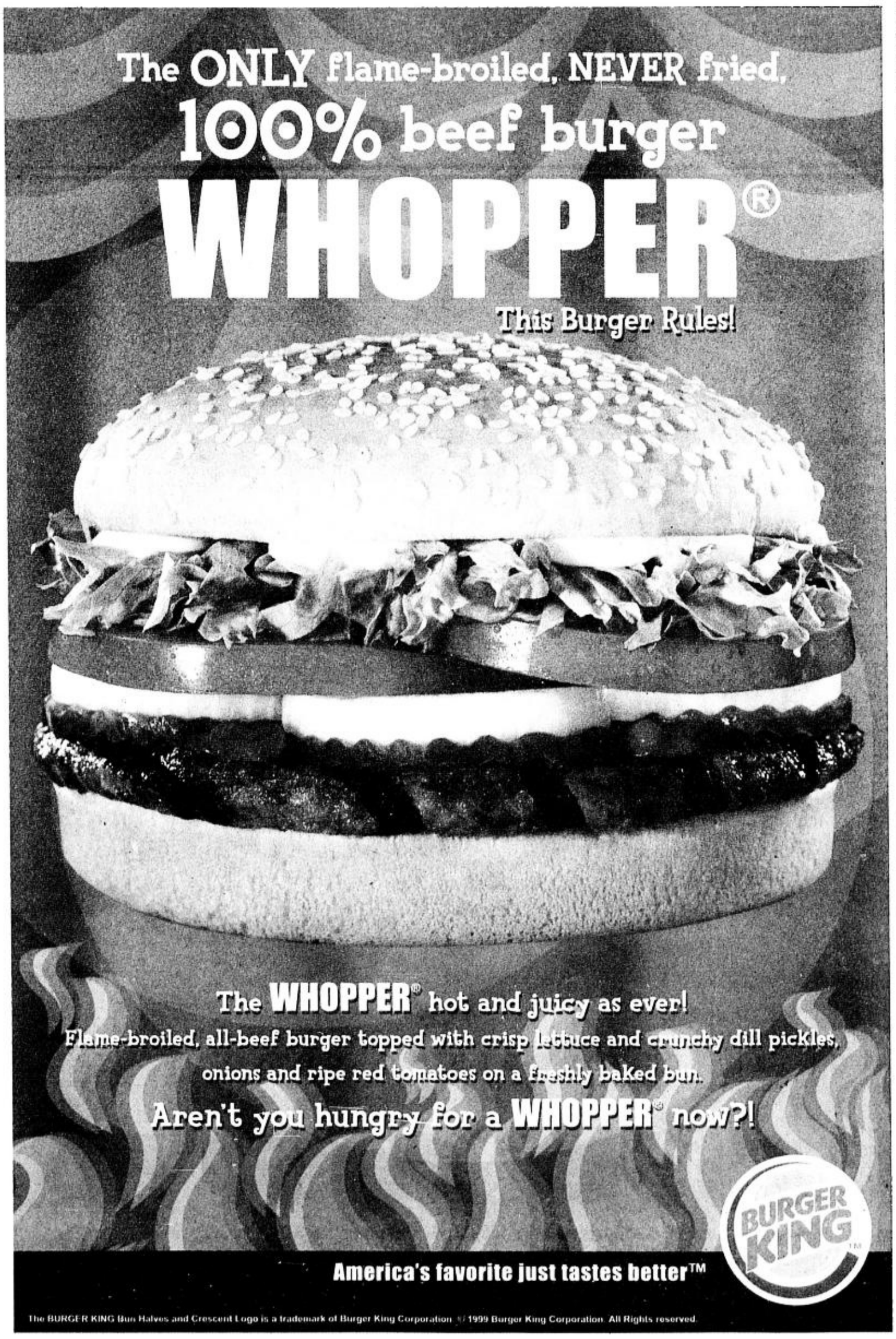
By the end, tired legs led to a few spills.

As we raced toward the camera for the final time, Etsuko Oka accidentally clipped her 9-year-old son, Kentaro, who flopped to his knees. For a moment, he looked as if he would cry. But when he saw everyone else still running, he shot up, brushed himself off and joined the pack.

"It's just a scratch," Oka, 40, said of her son. "I think we're all just tired. I didn't think it would be this strenuous." *AP*

Acoustic performances are a rousing treat at Tapika

The family restaurant is celebrating its first anniversary today



By Remy M. Umerez

TODAY, Tapika is celebrating its first anniversary with some choice live performances. The family restaurant has become a haven for people who prefer to listen to acoustic music.

Crowd-drawers

Entertainment consultant Joey Jacobe rates the restaurant's performers as certified crowd-drawers. To illustrate, when the group U-turn was moved to a Tuesday gig, Tapika was jampacked as if it was a weekend happening.

U-Turn consists of former Vanna, Vanna girl Teri Sambajon, balladeer Richard Poon and guitarist Edwin Dimaranan. They have a wide repertoire of cover-version hits, plus favorite classics which captivate audiences wherever they perform.

Dominic and Burton used to be band members until they decided to form a duet specializing in acoustic music.

Favorite pieces

Their favorite pieces include songs of Brian McKnight and Joey Generoso. They also do covers of Stevie Wonder, Boyz II Men and mostly R&B hits.

The members of Acoustic Dream met at the UP College of Music and have been performing in various concerts and other functions. They are classically trained. In their spare time, they teach at some prestigious music studios. Ria Victorino, Anna Santos and Jerome Rico's repertoire ranges from standards to jazz and pop.

Irene Navarro and Espie Estanislao form the Sole Acoustix duo. They perform a classic selection of love songs, from standards to pop-jazz, '80s, '90s and R&B.

Big edge

Nyo'y Volante, Hour Glass and Stone Free have a brand of musicality distinctly different from one another. Volante has a big edge since he has waxed an album for Viva.

The Hour Glass is a trio headed by Ria Villena, who sings, plays the flute and composes as well. The group is more geared to noncommercial music.

Stonefree is a must-hear for fans of thoughtful narrative songwriting. Regie, Relly, and Benson offer original Filipino and English compositions.

J. Paolo Santos goes onstage by special arrangement. He sings folk and jazz and performs solo with his acoustic guitar.

He is appreciated for the passion in his performance, his improvisations and his humor.

U TURN members Dimaranan, Sambajon and Poon.

Vina Morales . . .

From page D3

pre temptation will always be there. *Mas maraming* temptations when you're in this business."

Would she get involved with someone who does not like her singing? "Um . . . *baka mapurga sila sa akin, kasi* the whole time, *kakanta ako, di ba?* So, *kung hindi niya kayang tanggapin yun, huwag na lang!*"

Going back to her concert, Vina shares that they originally wanted a more intriguing title, like "Vina—First Time" or "Vina—First." Which prompts us to ask about her first times. Like, her first movie? " 'Nakagapos na Puso.' I was 10 years old. That was a big break for me. With Sharon. It was the first time I sang a duet with her—that was my dream, and it came true." First album? "It was just called 'Vina.' I was 15 years old."

First date? "Robin (Padilla). First boyfriend *ko, e.*" First paying job? "When I won in the 6th Cebu Pop Music Festival. I got P10,000, in 1986. I gave my prize money to my family." First kiss? "I can't say that anymore." Okay, so what was the feeling? "*Kilig!*"

Asean Culture Week 2002 to be held in Angkor and Pnom Penh

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM Oct. 24 to Nov. 2, leading artists from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will meet and perform together in Angkor and Pnom Penh in Cambodia as delegates to the 2002 Asean Culture Week.

Art lovers

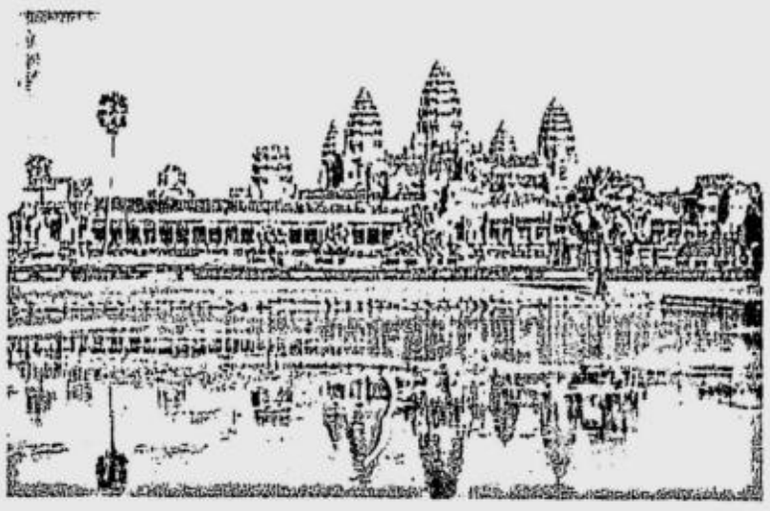
Representing the Philippines are Ballet Philippines, the Pinikpikan band, and visual artists Datu Arellano and Katti Sta. Ana. Tourists and art lovers should also try to make it to Cambodia for this year's Asean Culture Week, because it is being staged in Angkor for the first time.

Angkor's fantastic temples are the perfect background for the Asean member-countries' performances and exhibits. Centuries ago, Angkor was a major cultural and political center in Asia, and even if much of it lies in ruins, it is still an awesome showcase of Asian art and architecture.

Indeed, it is so grand and beautiful that it threatens to upstage the Asean countries' presentations. The Asean artists will have to work very hard to come up with performances that won't be thoroughly swamped by the fabulous setting.

Unforgettable time

Be that as it may, the Asean artists should have an unforgettable time not just performing at but also exploring Angkor, or at least parts of its 200-sq-km area. We trust that, after they come home, their subsequent artworks and performances shall be influenced to a significant extent by their Angkor experience.



ANGKOR WAT. Combination of staggering scope and intricate detail.

We had our own introduction to Angkor some years ago, during the first Cambodian Film Festival. The filmfest was held in Pnom Penh, but some delegates received a royal invitation to fly to Angkor on a day trip.

We had seen photographs of Angkor's complex of temples, but experiencing them in actuality blew us away. Angkor is, quite frankly, the most impressive monument to human creativity and spirituality we've ever seen—and we've seen quite a few.

Scope and detail

What made it so exceptional was its combination of staggering scope and intricate detail. Its temple clusters just went on and on, as far as the eye could see, and beyond. But, each time you chose to stop and look in greater detail, each slab of stone turned out to be covered with beautiful friezes that themselves seemed endless in their variety and artistic permutations.

It would take months to adequately savor the artistic and spiritual richness of Angkor, but our one day there was sufficient to fill our heart to overflowing, and to cause a quantum leap in our appreciation of the gift and spirit of the Asian artist.

Power

The Khmer empire lost its power and panoply centuries ago, and the encroaching jungle slowly covered it in green canopies of forgetfulness. Then, some 300 years ago, the ruins of its shrouded temples were slowly rediscovered, then even more gradually restored, for all the world to marvel at.

Later this month, the Asean artists will also stand in amazement before this grand masterwork of human genius. Let's hope that they discover from its awesome example that the artist and the visionary are one.

Kilmer to play US porn king

LOS ANGELES—Clean-cut Hollywood actor Val Kilmer will soon be hitting the big screen again—as a porn star.

KILMER. Cast as legendary adult film actor John Holmes.

Quadruple murder

Kilmer, 42, has signed on to play one of the United States' best known porn kings, legendary adult film actor John Holmes, in a biopic that describes his involvement in a quadruple murder, trade dailies said Wednesday.

The true-crime tale, entitled "Wonderland," is to be distributed by Lions Gate Films for director James Cox.

The picture is based on the killings of four people on Wonderland ave. in Los Angeles to which the actor was connected.

"What always interested me in this project is the truth of the incident," Cox told Daily Variety.

Holmes was arguably the most famous porn star of the 1970s, making more than 2,000 hard-core movies, and reputedly sleeping with more than 10,000 women.

Inspiration

His life was the inspiration for the main character in the 1997 mainstream Hollywood film "Boogie Nights," starring Burt Reynolds, a porn actor called Dirk Diggler.

Holmes, a drug addict, died from AIDS-related complications in 1988 at the age of 43.

Actors Christina Applegate, Kate Bosworth, "Friends" star Lisa Kudrow and Josh Lucas are all reportedly in talks to take roles in the film that will begin shooting next month. *AFP*

Broadway's 'Les Miserables' to close next March after 16-year run

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—"Les Miserables" is pulling down its barricades and folding its flag of revolution.

The mammoth musical hit based on Victor Hugo's epic novel will close March 15, 2003, at the Imperial Theater, after a 16-year run and 6,612 performances, second only to "Cats," Broadway's longest-running show.

"Though the show has always remained profitable except during those extraordinary recent times that affected the industry as a whole, I want 'Les Miz's' first Broadway reign to conclude with the same kind of excitement and celebration that was enjoyed by my productions of 'Cats' and 'Miss Saigon,' with audiences again fighting for tickets," producer Cameron Mackintosh said in a statement.

"I have also realized that I can't have a crack at the Tony for best revival until I close the first production."

Ticket sales for "Les Miserables," which opened March 12, 1987, have lagged since the Sept. 11 attacks last year, and Mackintosh said he would institute a special pricing campaign for much of the show's remaining months on Broadway.

The producer is bringing back the musical's original 1987 top ticket price of $47.50 for performances Monday through Friday, until Dec. 20, although 200 prime orchestra seats will still be available for $100. Weekend performances until Nov. 16 will feature $60 orchestra and front mezzanine tickets. Prices will rise after Dec. 20.

Mackintosh has taken off sale tickets for the last four days of the show's run, March 12-March 15, pending a decision on the show's final celebrations. *AP*

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Carol Channing writes memoirs with just a little bit of luck

CHANNING. The whole truth? Well, not entirely.

By Bob Thomas

BEVERLY HILLS, California—When Carol Channing decided to write her memoirs, she did it with the same thoroughness she employed when preparing for her classic stage roles in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and "Hello, Dolly!"

Condominium

She found a condominium on a golf course in Rancho Mirage, California, near Palm Springs, and wrote "with pencil and eraser" for four and a half years.

"It could have been three and a half, but they kept editing it," Channing complained. "I just had these people stopping me from what I was trying to write: 'No, you've got to have a co-author. This is no good.'"

She was finally saved by Michael Korda, editor-in-chief of Simon and Schuster, who told her he liked the book just the way she was writing it. The result is "Just Lucky I Guess," now in bookstores.

Channing's explanation for the protracted writing time sounds a little bit like Lorelei Lee, the dizzy schemer of "Gentleman Prefer Blondes," with shades of Dolly Levi from "Hello, Dolly!"

"We don't know what we're like. You can't just sit down and say, 'This is what I'm like.' All you can do is say, 'Well, I'll tell everything I know. Maybe this is what makes me me. Maybe that's what makes me me. I really don't know. So just tell everything as truthfully as you can and leave it up to the reader to decide what you're like," she said.

The whole truth? Well, not entirely.

Third husband

She is relatively benign in writing about her third husband and longtime manager, Charles Lowe. She does write that he tried to keep other people out of her life, including her son by a previous marriage—political cartoonist Channing Lowe, whom the elder Lowe had adopted.

Channing also doesn't mention the allegations she made when filing for divorce from Lowe in 1998, accusing him of misappropriating her funds, humiliating her in public and having sex with her only twice in four decades. Lowe died after a stroke in 1999.

"Thank goodness I have this faulty memory gland," she said about the omissions. "I just don't remember anything bad. He was a funny man, and we both adored theater, and we shared the same interests. So I only remember the good things."

Channing came into town from her desert home for an interview at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. With her unruly waves of gray-blond hair and boyish figure clad in a ribbed gray cashmere sweater and tapered gray slacks, she belied her 81 years by a few decades. She did admit that she was a bit deaf in her left ear.

President

"Patrick Quinn—who played Cornelius in 'Hello, Dolly!'—did that to me," she said. "He stood right next to me, and he sang loud. He's now our president of Actors' Equity. I voted for him to get him off the stage."

Channing was preparing for a trip to New York for publication festivities as well as the inauguration of the Broadway Walk of Stars, which will be a tribute to stage stars in the manner of Hollywood Boulevard's Walk of Fame.

"I'll be the first one," she said. "How come I'm first? Because everybody else is dead. Ethel Merman, Mary Martin, Gwen Verdon, Lunt and Fontanne . . ."

Born in Seattle and raised in San Francisco, Carol was the daughter of George Channing, reporter for the Christian Science Monitor, charismatic speaker and later editor of all the church's publications. He played a pivotal role in her life and does so in the book.

"Most girls like to be like their fathers," she remarked. "They make a deity of them, I think."

Oddly, there is less mention of her mother in "Just Lucky I Guess." Channing said they loved each other, but it was her father who encouraged and counseled his daughter in her future career. *AP*

TURNING A HOBBY INTO AN OPPORTUNITY

RETIRED Engineer Frank Mateo has always been a photo buff. That's why immediately after his retirement from Gillette Philippines as senior vice president for manufacturing, Mateo knew what he was going to keep him busy through his retirement days—set up a Kodak Express store.

Mateo had always been interested in photography, he said. His love affair with photography and Kodak started when he was still stationed at the then-US military base in Subic.

A photo buff even then, Mateo would not trust his film to any other imaging company other than Kodak. "So I made arrangements with Kodak so I can have my film sent to Manila and then they would mail me back the pictures and bill me for the development and the printing."

Impressed with the way Kodak goes the extra step to please its customers, Mateo knew when he retired what he was going to do to keep himself busy—set up a Kodak Express store.

In September 1989, Mateo set up his first shop in Bicutan together with his wife. Mateo took care of the general management of the store while his wife, an accountant, was left with the accounting and administrative responsibilities.

"I wanted to set up a business that would not only provide me with financial gain but more importantly allow me to be involved in something that I really love doing, which is photography. I would say I'm now working on a hobby," Mateo explained.

But what started out as a hobby eleven years ago exceeded Mateo's own expectations. It became a profitable venture for Mateo and his family and this was the reason why he decided to expand his Kodak Express shops to a total of six branches from Olongapo City up north to Santa Rosa, Laguna down south.

He set up his second Kodak Express branch in Merville, Parañaque. Two years later, he set up his branch in Olongapo City, remembering the time when he had to mail his film to Manila for it to be processed by Kodak.

Setting up shop in Olongapo City was a challenge for Mateo. At that time, Olongapo was still reeling from the pullout of US troops from Subic. But driven by the prospects that the economy in Subic and Olongapo would pick up, Mateo set up his third and biggest franchise near the town's plaza. That Kodak Express outlet turned out to be his biggest earner for several years, driven by his own tenacity to succeed and backed by the healthy image of the Kodak brand.

Two more stores were set up before the turn of the millennium in Moonwalk, Las Piñas and another branch in Bicutan. By next month, Mateo will see his sixth Kodak Express franchise in Sta. Rosa, Laguna opening to the public.

Mateo's team of four, including his wife has now increased to close to 70. This now includes his daughter, Patricia, who after working for four years in a big company, has decided to join the husband-and-wife team as sales and marketing manager.

Photography indeed runs in Mateo's family. Mateo's son, Patrick, although not involved in the Kodak Express family business, has taken after his father's liking for photography after being exposed to a photography class while studying Industrial Design at DLSU-College of St. Benilde.

Patrick is now a professional photographer, specializing in weddings and corporate special events. Mateo beams that, of course, his son uses nothing but Kodak.

Much like his own experience with Kodak when he was still stationed in Subic, Mateo stressed the importance of maintaining that same level of service to his own customers. Such was his passion to maintain customer satisfaction that he has even gone beyond doing business but also having friends in the communities where his stores operate.

His family now gets invited to Church activities and concerts. His own daughter has taken to organizing activities in some of the villages near the Kodak outlets. And on special occasions like Christmas, it is the customers who return the favor by giving his family and his staff Christmas gifts.

And this sense of family is not only with the customers, Mateo said, it also with Kodak Philippines. "I've cultivated many friendships within Kodak because they take care of my needs as a photo dealer just like when they took care of me when I was a customer based in Subic."

"Nothing comes close to the dealer support system that Kodak has set in place for the hundreds of Kodak Express dealers all over the country, if I am to base it on how Kodak has taken care of our needs," Mateo said.

Satisfied with his being a Kodak Express dealer, Mateo feels no inkling about the need to shift loyalties. "I've been approached by competitors who are asking me to convert my Kodak Express stores into their photo labs, but I find no reason to transfer. Not now, not ever." ADVT.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Focus on Edward Albee and Tennessee Williams

By Noelani Torre

EDWARD Albee and Tennessee Williams are writing institutions. Their works are considered part of the so-called canon, and their lives have been analyzed and dissected by scholars and critics alike in dozens of articles and dissertations.

Controversial

In Dennis Brown's "Shoptalk," a collection of '70s interviews with theater and film personalities, we are given a concise yet clear picture of these two controversial individuals, one of whom was then at his most popular, the other unknowingly nearing an unexpected death.

Interestingly, the interview with Tennessee Williams is paired with another one with his mother. Edwina Dakin Williams, as the playwright himself confirmed, was the model for Amanda Wingfield, the delicate but tyrannical mother in "The Glass Menagerie." Like Amanda, Edwina Williams projects herself as a Southern belle and her personality greatly influenced her son's work.

"I love her very deeply," Williams told Brown. "She's not culpable, really, for the mistakes she made. But they were terrible mistakes, mistakes of excessive devotion to children, to the point of obliteration."

Devoted

Mrs. Williams was indeed devoted to her son, and she was very proud of him, too. As she told Brown in her thick Southern drawl, "Ah'm just like any othuh mothuh who thinks her son is of course a genius always."

At the time of the interview, Williams had just published his "Memoirs," a book that would later be harshly criticized, but, as Brown put it, "always with an underlying sadness for what might have been."

"His autobiography was terrible," said friend and director Elia Kazan.

ALBEE. "Heat emanated from him; only the warmth was missing."

"Terrible, terrible, terrible. He had much more to him than is in that book. He was full of love for people, despite the fact that everything in society at the beginning had attacked him and made him feel ashamed.

"He was resilient and strong-willed. He was very tough, very strong, and completely devoted when he was devoted. A wonderful man."

This is another thing we like about Brown's interviews, his letting the interviewee's colleagues and intimates present us with their description of the subject. Coupled with the interviewee's own thoughts and opinions, it creates a rounded portrait.

Better play

In this interview, Williams' hitherto hidden socially-concerned side is revealed. "I was asked if I cared whether in a hundred years people think 'A Streetcar Named Desire' is a better play than 'Death of a Salesman,'" said Williams. "I said the thing to wonder was, whether or not there will be any form of art, or whether people will just be concentrating all their energies on trying to survive on a planet virtually reduced to cinders by the holocaust of nuclear war—which is what we're constantly inviting, it seems to me."

At the time of the interview, Williams hadn't produced a hit play in years, but that didn't faze him. "I don't think commercial failure, or what they call a flop, is going to annihilate me anymore," he told Brown. "It will be annihilating at the moment it occurs, because I'm very affected by success and failure and such things. It will be very painful. But it won't stop me." His last words to the interviewer were: "I have no choice but to write. What else can I do?"

Tennessee Williams might have been trampled by criticism just before he died, but his unforgettable plays and the characters he created transformed American theater, and it is for these that he is now remembered.

Personal statements

Williams and Edward Albee weren't exactly contemporaries, but being both immensely talented playwrights, they had several things in common, including the ability to create controversy with either their plays or their personal statements.

The Kennedy Center, which recently made him an honoree, has this to say about Edward Albee and his work: "Albee's plays, with their intensity, their grappling with modern themes, and their experiments in form, startled critics and audiences alike while changing the landscape of American drama. He was unanimously hailed as the successor to Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill."

The picture of him presented in Brown's interview (his chapter is entitled "A Certain Amount Of Spleen") was that of a celebrity. "He projected the presence of a matinee idol," Brown wrote. "Heat emanated from him; only the warmth was missing."

Albee was being extensively criticized at that time, and his strained relationship with the critics was revealed in this interview:

"Surely you're familiar with the myth that theater critics build up a playwright and then take great pleasure in knocking him down," Brown said. Albee's response was: "It's not a myth. It's true, and there's nothing new about it.... They keep trying. I simply plan to outlast them, that's all.

Not a myth

"Of course it's not a myth. Critics do like to flex their muscles, create a Frankenstein monster, and then dismember it. That's what they enjoy doing. Williams, they used to attack for not writing 'Streetcar' over and over again, and then when he tried to write a play like 'Streetcar' they attacked him for repeating himself."

In the course of his harangue against critics, he let go of a statement that seemed to characterize him: "The critics figured that I needed a little knocking down. They'd created me and how dare I attack them. But they didn't create me, I created myself, and I'll attack anybody I feel like."

Here emerges a picture of a man who, as Walter Kerr put it, "is so knowing that you never get to know him." Still, one can't help admiring him, especially when he is truly passionate about his work:

"Do you know what a playwright is?" he asked fellow playwright Adrienne Kennedy. "A playwright is someone who lets his guts hang out on the stage...."

Playwrights don't have it easy especially as they, as Kevin Kline wrote in his Foreword to Brown's book, "are cursed with the imperative to succeed now, today, in public." Most people are unaware of this, however, and we are thankful to Brown for exploring this aspect of playwriting in his interviews.

Why televiewers get hooked on 'Betty La Fea'

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IT'S being talked about everywhere—from public buses and canteens, to beauty parlors and barbershops, and even in posh pubs in five-star hotels: "Betty La Fea," GMA-7's morning telenovela, is the latest buzz. Housewives stop doing their chores just to catch the show. Some office workers instruct their helpers at home to tape each episode. A jeepney driver says he goes home at 11 in the morning just to watch his favorite telenovela.

Popularity

On a worldwide level, the show's popularity has risen to stratospheric heights, reaching some 80 million viewers across Latin America. Hungary, Israel and other countries. In the search engines of the internet, there are more than 30,000 links to various websites on "Betty La Fea"—chat rooms, fan clubs, photos, countless articles on the subject, etc. There was even an e-forum of avid viewers who speculated on how the whole story was going to end.

A website was also designed that showed a photo gallery of how the Colombian actress Ana Maria Orozco, who plays the title role of Beatrice Pinzon Solano, was able to transform her TV character from an ugly and insecure office worker into a woman of grace, pulchritude and substance.

So successful has the telenovela been that, an internet entry says, "It almost single-handedly rescued from financial ruin the Colombian TV network that created it." The show has folded up in Colombia after one and half-years of

"BETTY LA FEA." An ugly woman defying the odds.

airing and according to a Spanish publication, "millions of Colombians today are planning their lives in the post-Betty era."

What was in this Colombian drama about a lowly, ugly and awkward accountant who metamorphosed into a sophisticated woman and even became president of the company that once kicked her out? We asked people from various walks of life why they continue to get hooked on "Betty La Fea." Their responses:

Empowerment

"*Kasi*, it's about empowerment," says Lilibeth Reyes, 32, businesswoman. "Not all women in telenovelas fight for their rights and succeed. But Betty is able to do that." Reyes says she was not fond of watching the show before but she became hooked when Betty's world started to crumble. "

"*Sabi ko sa sarili ko, ano kaya'ng gagawin n'ya? Aping-api s'ya. Tapos, ganoon pa ang hitsura n'ya. Nung nagresign s'ya at unti-unting gumanda, naaddict na ako sa panonood.*"

"I think it's her gradual transformation *na unti-unting inabangan ng mga* viewers," explains Doris Aclan, 28, elementary school teacher. "*Ewan ko, pero kaming mga babae, tuwang-tuwa kami sa mga* stories of ugly ducklings who become swans. *Matagal bago gumanda si* Betty. *Bitin na bitin na kami. Diyos ko, kailan na gaganda 'yan? Grabe, inabangan talaga namin, At patuloy pa naming inaabangan kasi baka magpatanggal pa s'ya ng* braces," she laughs.

From a male's point of view, "Betty La Fea's" unique appeal lies in its being able to portray life in the corporate world. "We do not often see the corporate world being discussed in dramas, right?," explains Willie Lobo, 29, an insurance agent, "*Kasi nga* boring *sa* drama *pag-usapan ang mga* gross sales, bench marks, market strategies and the like. But 'Betty' is able to do that. In the many times *na napanood ko 'yung* show, feeling *ko, Pinoy na Pinoy ang dating ng* corporate set-up, *lalo na 'yung tsismisan nung mga empleyado.*"

Charlie Loranzo, 25, a graduate student, agrees: "For the first time, I was able to watch a telenovela without the impossible bizarre twists, like twins who got separated, the dead *contrabida* coming to life after she was buried, or other *contrabidas* who have nine lives! This one doesn't have those elements, although *hindi pa rin nawawala 'yung* diary. Betty writes in her dairy which her mother reads."

Love angle

The love angle between Betty and her handsome boss, Armando Mendoza, is something that our interviewees are also vocal about. "*Kilig na kilig ako*," says Jenny Lin, 28, physical therapist," *lalo na nung gumanda na s'ya at humahabol-habol pa si* Armando, *parang gusto ko si* Betty *na kumanta ng* 'Beh Buti Nga!' *Sa totoong buhay, lahat ng babae, ke maganda o pangit, gustong makabingwit ng guwapo!*"

"*Ako naman, ang* insight *na nakuha ko ay kung gaano talaga kahalaga and hitsura ng tao lalo na sa* corporate world," interjects Minerva de los Santos, 30, housewife. "Look at Betty—she's a brilliant accountant, but she only got respected when she became beautiful."

"*Sa akin naman, di ganoon*, argues Elena Malabanan, 36, Minerva's friend and neighbor. "*Mas mahalaga yung nasa loob, at yun yung meron si* Betty. *Yung* dignity *n'ya. At saka kung di ba 'yon matalino, kukunin ba yung presidente ng kompanya kahit na gumanda pa 'yon?*

"*Ang nakakaaliw sa akin, yung* thought *na para ding* Pinoy *ang mga* Colombians," explains Sharon Dinglasan, 42, hairdresser. "*Yung* thought *na* in that part of the world *pala, may sekretarya ding nagwo-worry kasi baka di s'ya makapasok dahil wala s'yang pamasahe, tumatayo din sa mabaho at mausok na* bus, *nagdadasal sa Mahal na Birhen, napapagtawanan kasi may* run *ang* stockings."

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Brad Pitt, Juliette Lewis topbill Hallmark film feature

THE HALLMARK Channel's "Big Movie Premieres" cinema showcase is screening a number of interesting features this month, starting off with the Brad Pitt starrer, "Too Young to Die," on Oct. 18.

Brad and Juliette Lewis play reckless young lovers caught in a dangerous downward spiral of drugs and alcohol that leads to murder. Will Juliette's character be sentenced to Death Row, even if she's a minor?

"A Good Thief," showing on Oct. 19, tells the story of a working-class mom who goes against a drug lord. It stars Kay Mellor and Liz Smith.

"Hot Money," the featured film on Oct. 20, tells the remarkable tale of a group of cleaning women who stole money from the Bank of England that was meant to be destroyed, hiding the loot in their bras and knickers.

"The Inner Circle," showing on Oct. 24, stars Tom Hulce as an ordinary man who's thrust into the halls of power when he becomes the personal projectionist of Russian strongman Joseph Stalin.

And "White Nights" topbills ballet legend Mikhail Baryshnikov and tap dancer Gregory Hines as artists who grapple with issues of love and freedom as they try to escape from the Soviet Union.

Incidentally, Hallmark also did well in the recent Emmy awards, romping off with three trophies for its productions, "Jim Henson's Jack and the Beanstalk," "Anne Rice's The Feast of All Saints" and "Dinotopia."

Youth Council members with streetkids

The members of the MTV-Penshoppe Youth Council recently treated children from the Tahanang Mapagpala Foundation to a day of fun at Power Ball at Rockwell Center.

Uriah Van der Bos, Brad Turvey, Kathleen Hilario, Nicole Schulze, Terrence Koa, Kelly Misa and Danielle Mendoza hit the bowling lanes with the streetkids, then trooped to McDonald's for lunch.

The streetchildren from Caloocan are being given temporary shelter, the basic necessities, and psychological and emotional support to help make them self-reliant and productive.

The Youth Council members are active in modeling and other events staged by MTV and Penshoppe, and also regularly engage in socio-civic activities. The council is supported by Cali and I-Academy.

Jazz artists perform at the Big Dome

105.1 Crossover brings two of the finest names in the smooth jazz concert circuit, Bobby Caldwell and Phil Perry, in a back-to-back concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. Making a special appearance as vocalist is Pauline Wilson.

MONTAGE

Caldwell's biggest hit "What You Won't Do for Love" has undergone more than 70 remakes. Perry burst into the Los Angeles music scene as a background vocalist and session singer for jazz guitarist Lee Ritenour.

Wilson is best known as the lead singer of the popular jazz group called Seawind. Call 911-5555 or 844-2947.

Southborder at Amneshox

Amneshox One-Stop Entertainment Bar presents Southborder today at 9:30 p.m. The band will play hits such as "Kahit Kailan," "The Way We Do," and "Habang Atin ang Gabi" featuring lead vocalist Luke Mejares.

Amneshox is located at 2113 M.H. del Pilar, Manila. Call 524-8490.

Martin's Onstage repeats

Maximedia brings back Martin Nievera in a repeat of his concert "Opening Night" at Onstage in Greenbelt Makati today at 9 p.m. Other shows will be on Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26.

Destiny Cable promo

Subscribers of Destiny Cable only have three days to win a trip anywhere in the world with Discover Destiny, Travel the World.

To join the contest, subscribers can fill up entry forms found in the statement of accounts or at www.mydestiny.net.

Entries may be dropped at any Destiny Cable Business Partner office or at Destiny Cable, 4th floor, Solid House bldg., Pasong Tamo ext., Makati City. Deadline is Oct. 15.

October at Hard Rock Cafe

Hard Rock and Wave 89.1 present Paolo Santos and Pido with Take One on Oct. 15, 22 and 29.Kyla and Medwin Marfil of True Faith join them on Oct. 15.

For lovers of lite rock. HRC features The Company and True Faith on Oct. 16.

Highlighting HRC's October line-up is the performance of the Aegis band on Oct. 26 and the special Halloween party on Oct. 31 with South Border. Call 893-4661.

Class reunion

The Torres High School Special Science Class of 1982 will have its 20th grand alumni reunion on Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. at Kowloon restaurant, West ave., Quezon City.

Contact David Fabros at 415-2272, loc. 5219 or Evelyn Celis at 0918-9255323.

(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

D'Sound at The Shang

Simone, Jonny and Kim, collectively known as D'Sound, will perform at an invitational concert at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall at 9:45 p.m. today. The performance highlights the launch of The 5th, Metro Manila's newest shopping mecca for the youth.

D'Sound will be joined by Parliament Syndicate. Shoppers can get free invitations to the show by purchasing P750 worth of merchandise from any of the participating stores at The 5th. Call 633-7851.

There will also be a The 5th party at the mall's fifth level from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Performing are hip hop artists DJ Kimosave, Decipher and Flow 44.

Oasis at Araneta Coliseum

On Oct 23, "GenTXT Presents Oasis Live in Manila" brings one of today's hottest musical groups to the Araneta Coliseum. The Oasis band's blockbuster hits include "Definitely Maybe," "Wonderwall," "Don't Look Back in Anger" and "(What's the Story) Morning Glory?"

Oasis is particularly keen about performing here because the Philippines is one of its strongest supporters in the region. Oasis has sold more albums here than any other artist to visit recently, except Michael Jackson.

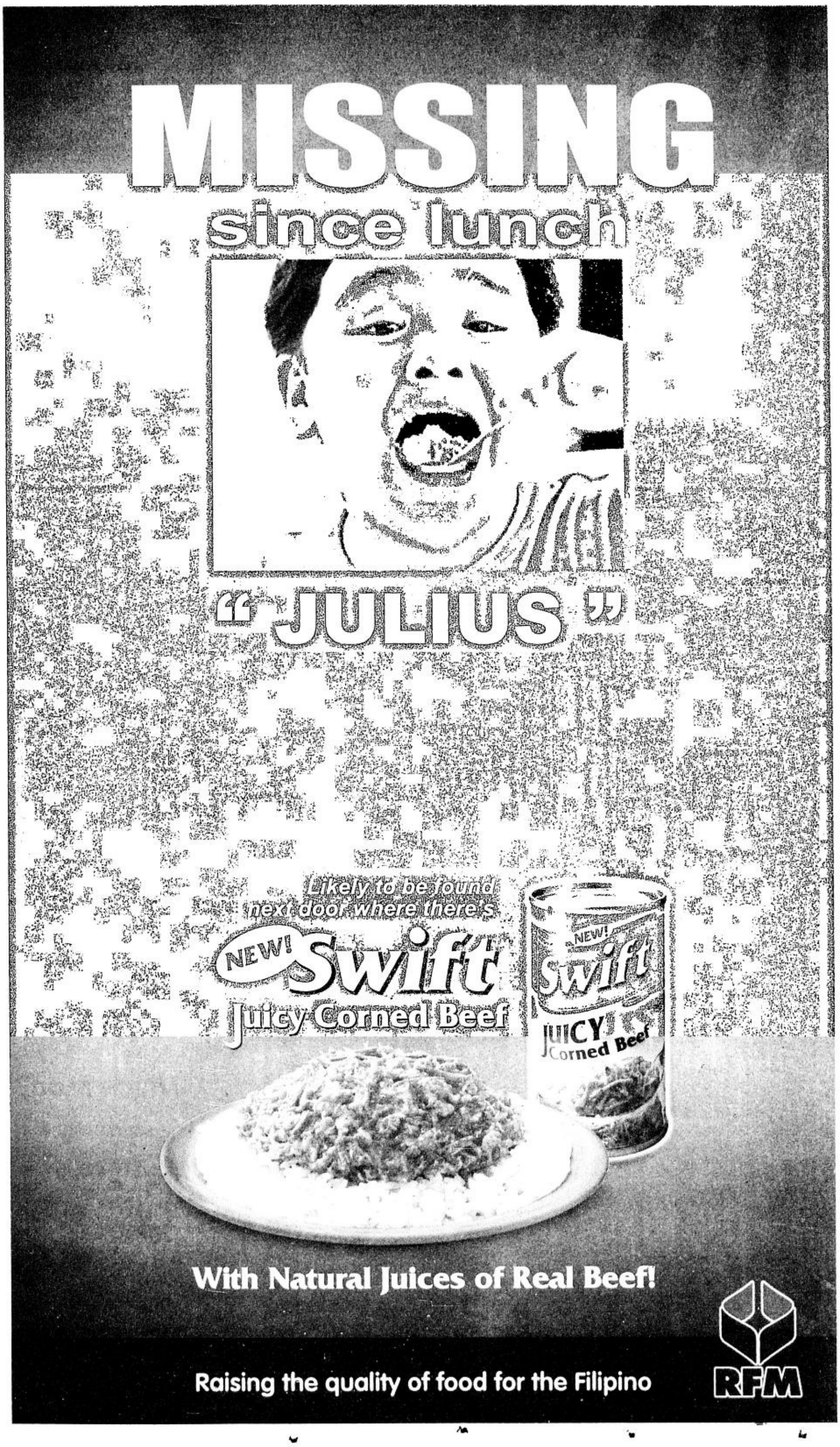
Mall tour for Patricia Javier

Sultry Patricia Javier has released her debut album, "PJ," and will be promoting it by way of a mall tour.

The tour schedule: Oct. 12, SM North Edsa. Oct. 13, SM Manila. Oct. 18, SM Bacoor. Oct. 19, SM Southmall. Oct. 20, SM Centerpoint. Oct. 27, SM Pampanga. Nov. 16, Robinsons Place Novaliches. Nov. 17, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. Nov. 23, Robinsons Place Imus. And Nov. 24, Robinsons Metroeast.

PITT. Caught in a downward spiral of drugs and alcohol that leads to murder.

MTV-PENSHOPPE Youth Council members with some of the young wards of the Tahanang Mapagpala Foundation.



Australian film effects wizards lure Hollywood

By Justine Toh

SYDNEY—As Hollywood seeks more eye-candy bang for its box-office dollar, directors needing to blur reality increasingly look half a world away to Australia's wizards of visual and special effects.

Reputation

The country's small visual effects industry has gained a reputation for thinking outside the square and creating the seemingly impossible within budget.

Private firm Animal Logic, at the forefront of the Australian visual effects industry, lists Hollywood blockbusters "The Matrix," "Moulin Rouge," "Face/Off," "The Thin Red Line" and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy among its credits.

Sci-fi film "The Matrix," starring Keanu Reeves, snared an Oscar in 2000 for special effects house Cineffects for its time-bending pyrotechnics.

Fresh approach

"The Academy Award . . . certainly made a statement to the world to have a look at what was happening 'down under,'" said Zareh Nalbandian, the managing director of Animal Logic, which was also involved in "The Matrix." Chris Murray, editor of film publication Empire Magazine in Australia, says the local effects industry took a fresh approach to the wizardry of filmmaking, and "The Matrix" put Australian production houses firmly on the global map.

"We've still got that 'can do' attitude . . . we're good at making the magic happen, as opposed to relying on tried and true methods," he said.

On top of the Oscar win, the beleaguered Australian dollar, hovering at around half a US dollar, provides sound incentive for overseas filmmakers to outsource post-production work to Australia. Government tax breaks further sweeten the deal.

Raising the bar

Both Animal Logic and Cineffects, based at Sydney's Fox Studios, are working on "The Matrix" sequels, due for release in 2003, but they are tight-lipped about what effects magic they have weaved.

"THE MATRIX." Snared an Oscar for Australian special effects house Cineffects for its time-bending pyrotechnics.

"'The Matrix' raised the bar in terms of visual effects for the whole world and I think audiences expect that bar to be higher the second time 'round, the third time 'round. They won't be disappointed, I can tell you that," Nalbandian said.

The first Matrix film wowed audiences with its use of bullet time, which makes slow-motion seem rapid, a gravity-defying, frenzied martial arts style and creative camerawork which gave 360-degree perspectives to an audience more accustomed to a two-dimensional cinema screen.

Digital production technology

Visual effects are broadly defined as computer-generated effects using digital production technology. Special effects are their physical, hands-on predecessors.

But the adolescent digital effects industry, while leaving moviegoers slack-jawed, isn't putting its predecessor out to pasture.

"More and more these days we'll piece various visuals together, that then may be additionally manipulated and compiled digitally. That's our greatest meshing between digital and special effects," said Courtley.

Digital production tools came of age in the early 1990s and the limits of their abilities are far from defined.

Animal Logic has patented several production tools. In 1992, the company developed Eddie, an interactive software application for layering images on top of each other. Eddie was purchased by Microsoft and is now an industry standard.

"We're still in the middle of the revolution and who knows where the revolution will take us," said Nalbandian.

"But I suspect that in the next 10 years we'll see exponential advances which will make the last 10 years look like the steps were very small," he said.

The industry has so much innovative steam behind it that new technological hurdles are faced soon after clearing old ones.

Programmers

"We constantly hit the wall, and the technology guys, the research and development guys, the programmers and designers have to move that wall. Inevitably we'll hit it again and they'll have to move it again," Nalbandian said.

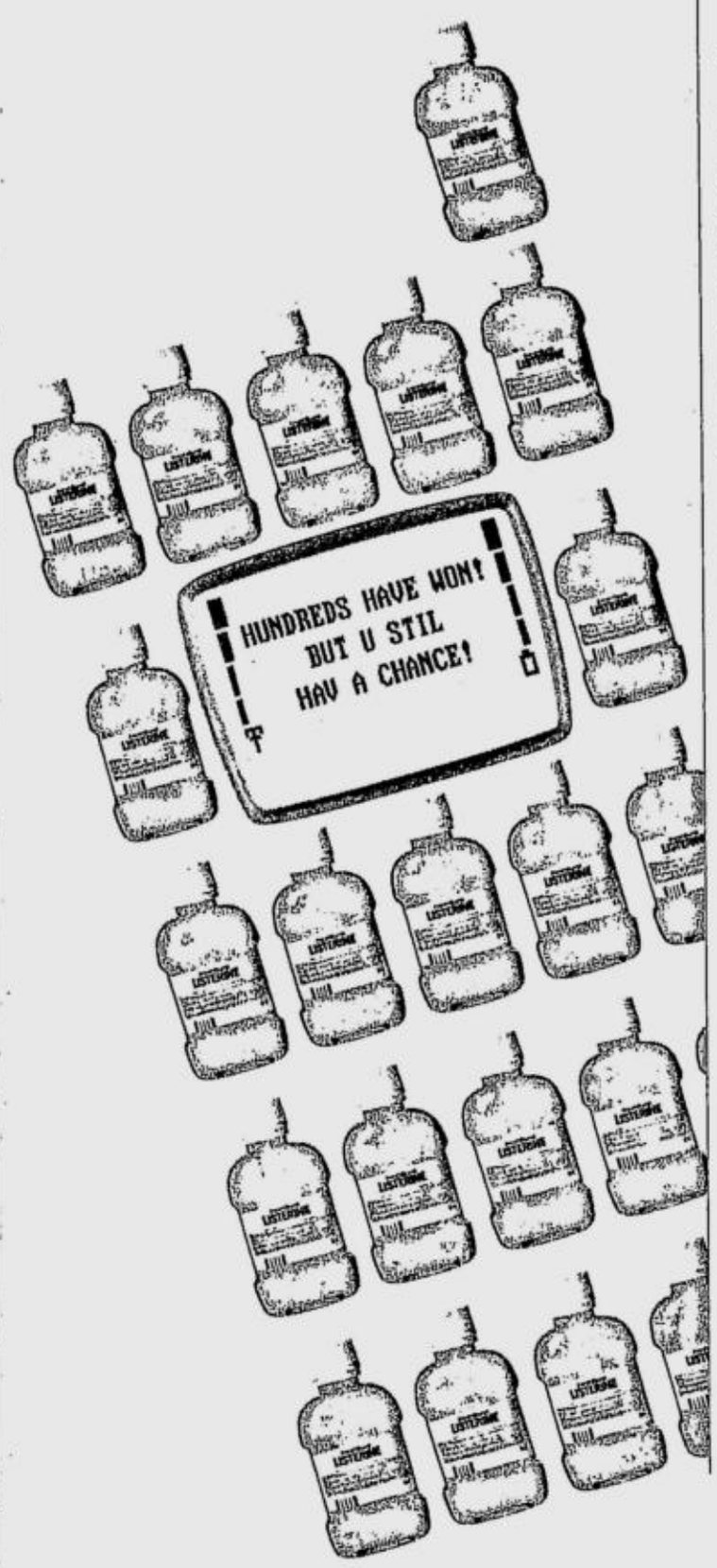
Special effects have been around since cinema began, but the digital visual effects industry is something of an infant.

People notching up 15 years in the industry are considered old-timers.

Animal Logic has grown from a team of about 40 people five years ago to about 190 now.

Nalbandian says most employees are drawn from diverse creative wellsprings ranging from graphic design to film production, sculpting, fine art to photography.

"What makes a film entertaining, what makes a successful production, is all the life experience that all the crew bring to the production, and that's not limited to digital life," he said. *Reuters*



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8.	Emmanuel Casimiro	Nokia 3310
9.	Ernest Santiago	cell card
10.	Hilarion Gumapac	cell card
11.	Joselino Tuazon	Nokia 3310
12.	Katleya Bercasio	Hong Kong travel package
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15.	Mylene Vergara	cell card
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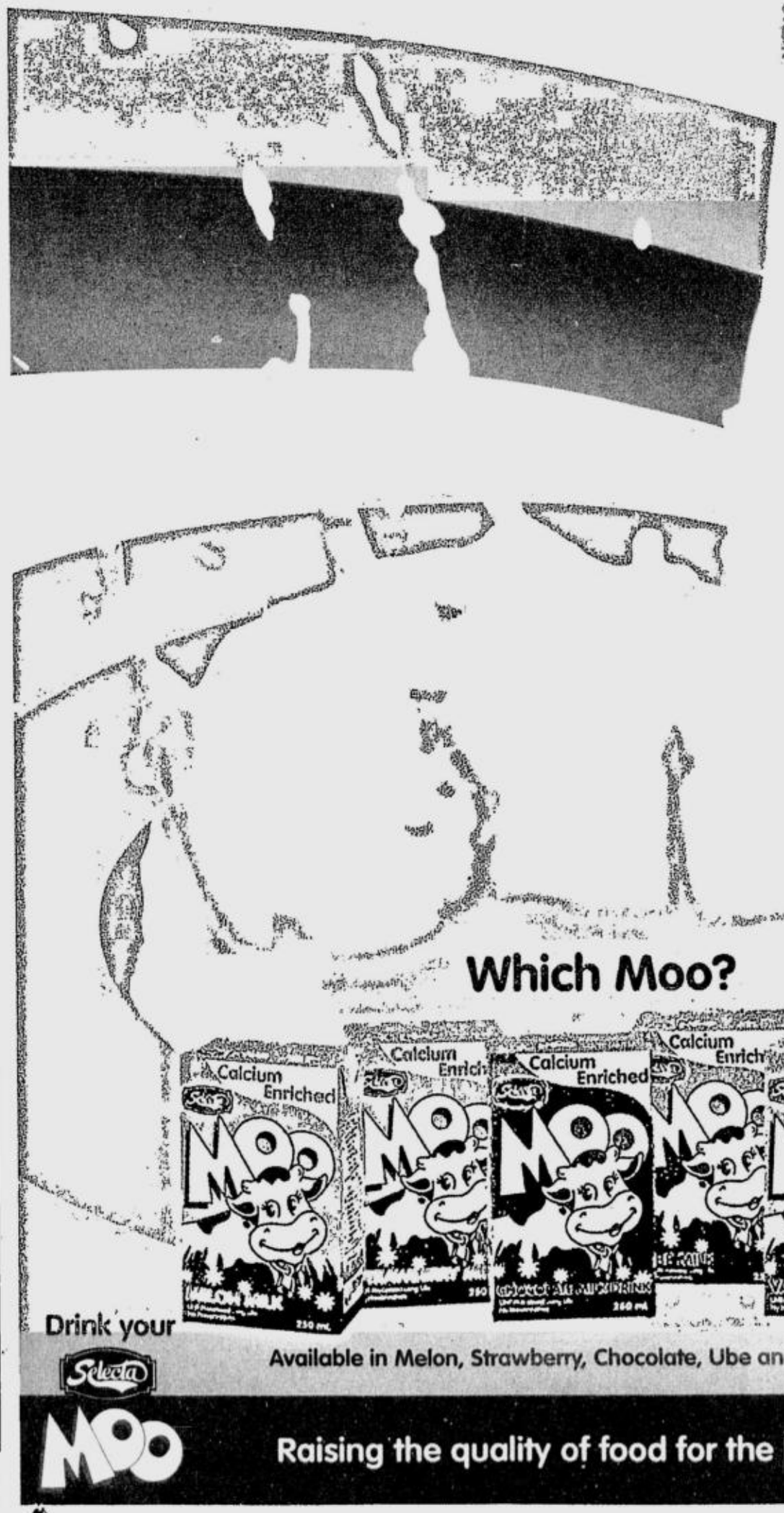

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SATURDAY Special

WILL Graham (Edward Norton, right) must face his old nemesis, Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), as he hunts down a serial killer in "Red Dragon."

(AP PHOTO/GLEN WILSON)

Cannibal Hannibal on leaner diet at US box office

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—America's favorite cannibal may need to work on some new recipes.

"Red Dragon," marking Anthony Hopkins' third turn as the gruesome Dr. Hannibal Lecter, debuted at No. 1 at the North American box office. But its $37.5 million tally for the Friday-to-Sunday period was well off the $58 million bow of its 2001 predecessor, "Hannibal."

Studio estimates

According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, last weekend's champion, the Reese Witherspoon romantic comedy "Sweet Home Alabama" slipped to No. 2 with a three-day sum of $21.6 million, while the Jackie Chan action-comedy "The Tuxedo" came in at No. 3 with $10.1 million, also down one spot on its second weekend.

The top 10 contained two other new entries: the biblical cartoon "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie" opened at No. 6 with an enlightening $6.5 million; and the Dustin Hoffman-Susan Sarandon family saga "Moonlight Mile" jumped 11 places to No. 9 with $2 million after expanding in its second weekend.

Holding steady

Holding steady at No. 4, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" became the highest grossing independent movie in history, surpassing the $140 million total of "The Blair Witch Project." After adding $8.5 million in its 25th weekend, "Wedding" has now pulled in $148 million. Nia Vardalos stars as a frumpy waitress who causes chaos in her Greek-American family when she becomes engaged to a WASP.

According to box-office tracking firm Exhibitor Relations, the top 12 films grossed $103 million, up 12 percent from last weekend, and up 24 percent from the year-ago weekend when "Training Day" opened at No. 1 with $22 million.

While the "Red Dragon" launch compared unfavorably with that of "Hannibal," it was certainly no chopped liver.

The new film set a new record for a film opening in October, beating the $28.6 million bow of "Meet the Parents" in 2000; and it represents the best fall opening by an R-rated movie, surpassing the $36.4 million launch of "Interview with the Vampire" in 1994.

The film was released by Universal Pictures, a unit of Vivendi Universal SA . Executives said the audience was evenly split by gender, and by viewers aged over and under 30. Exit polling data were better than for "Hannibal," which was released domestically by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc .

Remake

"Red Dragon" is a remake of the 1986 film "Manhunter," a pulp thriller that introduced Lecter (played by Brian Cox) to moviegoers. Hopkins took over the role in the 1991 film "The Silence of the Lambs," winning an Oscar in the process. While "Hannibal" ended up with $165 million domestically, its comical ending left a bad taste in some viewers' mouths.

Universal distribution president Nikki Rocco said "Red Dragon" was positioned as more of a suspense thriller in the vein of "Lambs" than as a "Hannibal"-like horror movie.

"It's not a sequel (to 'Hannibal') and we didn't expect it to play as a sequel," Rocco said.

The critics were rather harsh towards "Red Dragon," which was directed by Brett Ratner of "Rush Hour" fame: "artistic bankruptcy," said the New York Times; "high-profit hack work," said the Wall Street Journal.

The film stars Edward Norton as an FBI agent who uses his old nemesis, an incarcerated Lecter, to help him track down a serial killer, played by Ralph Fiennes. Harvey Keitel and Emily Watson also star.

After two weekends "Sweet Home Alabama" has grossed $65.6 million. Witherspoon plays a New York socialite who returns to her humble Southern roots to choose between two suitors. The film was released by Touchstone Pictures, a unit of Walt Disney Co.

Rookie spies

"The Tuxedo" has $28.1 million, also after two weekends. It was released by DreamWorks SKG, which is privately held. Chan and co-star Jennifer Love Hewitt play rookie spies.

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" was released by IFC Films, which is majority owned by Cablevision Systems Corp.

CANNIBAL/ E2

Marisa Tomei battles expectations in a stellar career spanning 10 years

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK—Marisa Tomei has been busy since winning the Academy Award as best supporting actress for 1992's "My Cousin Vinny"—busy, but not always acclaimed.

Ups and downs

"I've had a career that has had ups and downs, like most actors' careers," she says, curled up on a hotel sofa. "I guess I thought I'd be the exception. I'm not. It's up and down."

After more than a dozen movies, plus appearances on Broadway, off-Broadway and television, the last year or so definitely has seen an upswing, with her subtle Oscar-nominated turn as a bereaved girlfriend in "In the Bedroom."

Tomei bristles at anyone who still thinks her first Oscar nomination was a fluke.

"I'm sensitive to it because it makes it sound like, 'Where were you for 10 years?' It felt like I was a miserable failure for one decade and now I'm vindicated," she says. "Of course, it hurt my feelings.

Success

"Everybody has their own measure of what success is to them and what they want out of life. It's not up to media or anybody to judge when somebody's life is going well or not."

While many critics thought her "In the Bedroom" performance was the best of her career, she responds: "I don't think people have seen one-tenth of what I can do. It all depends on the right part coming along. I don't think I can do everything, but I know I can do a lot more."

Tomei, 37, shows some of that versatility in her new film "Just a Kiss," playing a psychotic bowling alley attendant who reads fortunes in beer rings and has a penchant for sadomasochism.

TOMEI. "I know I can do a lot more."

The black comedy—co-staring Kyra Sedgwick, Taye Diggs, Ron Eldard and Marley Shelton—tells the story of a group of New Yorkers whose lives are torn apart by infidelity.

Tomei thrilled director and longtime friend Fisher Stevens by throwing herself into the part.

"I've worked with her a lot and she just has this ability to get right into it and she's willing to really take chances," Stevens says. "A lot of actors nowadays are more about the way they look, but the first thing with her is the role: What is the character? What does she want in this scene? Not 'What does she look like? What is she wearing?'"

Tomei, raised in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, dropped out of Boston University after her freshman year to join the soap operas "One Life to Live" and "As the World Turns." Later, she appeared in "A Different World," the spinoff of "The Cosby Show."

Film debut

Her film debut, a one-line role ("Oh my God, you're so drunk!") in 1984's "The Flamingo Kid," led to work as Sylvester Stallone's daughter in "Oscar" and then the gum-snapping, auto-mechanic turned cosmetologist in "My Cousin Vinny."

Her Oscar win stunned Hollywood, and Tomei's career took off, with roles in the films "Chaplin," "The Paper," "Only You," "The Perez Family," "Four Rooms," "A Brother's Kiss," "Welcome to Sarajevo," "Slums of Beverly Hills," "Someone Like You," and "The Watcher."

Along the way, she has grown tired of playing quirky, ethnic or lower-class characters.

"Is it because I have brown hair?" she asks. "Because I actually originally came from Flatbush?

"There's a lot of feeling boxed in, but then I feel like I've been successful," she says, then adds with a chuckle: "Maybe I'm just getting into a bigger box."

Tomei has tried to shake things up, hitting the stage as a member of the Naked Angels theater troupe and appearing in "Fat Men in Skirts," and Tony Kushner's "Slavs!" Her Broadway debut came in 1998 opposite Quentin Tarantino with the savagely reviewed "Wait Until Dark."

AP

SWITCHING CHANNELS

A different Joyce in 'Paraisong Parisukat'

By Edmund L. Sicam

"MASIKIP, Mainit...Paraisong Parisukat" is about a female worker (Joyce Jimenez) in a shoe store who's happy in her narrow world where she keeps company with shoes and shoe boxes in an attic with no windows. She has no ambition at all about moving on to greater things because the company is kind to her and the fact she earns below minimum wage doesn't disturb her. Her comfortable existence changes when a male helper (Jay Manalo) enters her world.

Joey Reyes was branded a pornographer when he did "Live Show" because of its explicit sex scenes. This time, however, despite the presence of Joyce, he restrains himself and concentrates more on her relationship with Jay and the characters in the store. In fact, we don't see Joyce undress until the third reel and that's halfway through the movie.

Her love scenes are also tame compared to her other sexy movies. Another sexy star, Angela Velez, is in the movie but she has no sex scene and is limited to uttering obscenities.

The character Joyce plays is the exact opposite of her temptress role in "Scorpio Nights 2." Here, she is shy and withdrawn and she has to be courted by Jay before she gives in to her passion. That's why it takes close to an hour before she actually goes to bed with Jay.

A different Joyce emerges in this movie. She's understated and uses her face more than gestures to convey the message. This is not to say that the sexy star is ready for an acting award. She still needs to improve but she has gone far since her "Scorpio Nights" days.

JIMENEZ. Plays a character who's shy and withdrawn.

The world that Joyce's character lives in is like many other people's, with dead-end jobs that they are not happy with, relationships where they are not allowed to grow, etc.

When Joyce, with the help of Jay, finally breaks away from her confinement in the shoe store, there is a feeling of hope that she will finally do something with her life. There is no assurance, however, because it's a cruel world out there. But at least, she has taken action instead of playing it safe.

Lighthearted movie

"The Best Man" is basically a fun, lighthearted movie, like the popcorn one munches while watching the movie. Ogie Alcasid and Michael V, who are responsible for much of "Bubble Gang's" zaniness, are funny as bumbling friends who meet all sorts of accidents on the way to the wedding.

It's as if "Bubble Gang' went out of the confines of the studio to film its visual gags. What's different with Ogie and Michael is that they do not rely solely on slapstick to tickle the audience's funnybone. They are students of the comedy of the absurd and they pass with flying colors in this movie.

Michelle Bayle and Andrea del Rosario provide the distractions, and are prime candidates for future bold movies. Michelle told us recently that she is not yet ready for this shift but she is not disregarding the idea completely. Andrea has received offers to do bold movies and is in the process of making a decision.

Fun at the mall

The newest boy group in town, 8OM (Eight of March), promotes songs from its debut album "Believe, It's Kids' Day Out" on Oct. 19 as Sta. Lucia East Department Store presents a treat for children with a circus act complete with jugglers, clowns, magicians and acrobats.

On Oct. 20, the sixth and last dream car in "Dream Car Extravaganza" will be given away. On Oct. 26, three- to 12-year-olds will roam the mall asking for treats in "Grand Trick or Treat at the Mall." To join, purchase a pumpkin pail at the Toy Section of the Sta. Lucia Dept. Store and register at the customer service booths till Oct. 25.

Then, on Oct. 26, Halloween creatures take centerstage in the "It's Just a Fantasy" costume contest.

Dr. Vivian Gonzales on values formation

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FLYING in a V-formation enables a flock of swans to travel 70 percent farther and faster than one swan flying by itself, because the lead swan minimizes air resistance for the rest of the flock. When it is tired, it drops back and a new leader takes over.

Community service

This is also why the educators and students Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales has trained make a difference in their schools and communities. The UP professor and MNSA graduate says it is values formation developed through community service that she speaks of when she talks of "flying in a V-formation."

Dr. Gonzales looks to the Filipino youth to usher in the changes needed to achieve economic, social, and cultural stability. Her Values Integration and Promotion (VIP) began as a seminar for students at UP Los Baños in 1995-1996. It oriented 42 freshmen and 180 heads of student organizations on their significant role in nation-building under her Students' Transformation and Enrichment for Truth (Stet) paradigm.

CWS component

When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9163 (the National Service Training Program Act of 2001) into law on Jan. 23, 2002, the CWS component of the Expanded ROTC evolved into the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP).

DR./ E3

CENTRAL Colleges of the Phils. (CCP) offers Values Integration and Promotion-Civic Welfare Service (VIP-CWS) this school year. Shown above are Lt. Col. Vivian A. Gonzales (center) with CCP faculty member Ricky F. Monton and students. Gonzales facilitates the course every other Sunday to develop the youth into social enterpreneurs serving their communities.

Don't shop till you drop

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Someone once said, men are born to earn and women to spend. Surely, that was said in jest—but there's more than a grain of truth hidden there somewhere. Because, indeed, shopping is every woman's biggest delight. Our eyes automatically sparkle at the mere suggestion of shopping. Men can't seem to understand this. For them, shopping is a chore. For us, it's an art!

Color and design

Like, when a man needs to buy a tie, he goes to a shop, picks out the color and design he fancies, proceeds to the counter and pays for his purchase. The entire process takes a maximum of five minutes.

But when a wife buys a tie for her husband, it's not unusual for the whole experience to last an hour. She goes to a shop, runs her hands through all the ties neatly arranged on a little carousel, and asks the salesgirl to please show her those that are not on display.

After the efficient salesgirl has cheerfully shown her every tie they have, she graciously thanks her and leaves to go to 10 or more shops, where she goes through the same ritual.

Important factors

By the way, did you know, Clara, that there are a lot of important factors to consider when buying a tie? Like, the color, the design, the style, the brand, the price, the fabric, the texture and, most especially, the personality.

Yes, ties have a personality that should match that of the wearer. Like, a flowery tie means either the man who wears it is effeminate or he's so secure about his manhood that a floral design even accentuates his sense of machismo. A tie with a cartoon character can signify flamboyance and playfulness. There are powerful ties, sexy ties, conservative ties, dangerous ties, on-the-edge ties, I'm-king-of-the-world ties!

But, going back to our shopper, she then goes back to the first shop and picks out the tie she had already mentally checked before, and asks for a male attendant to please put it on so she can see how it drops and blends with different colored shirts. Then, she creases her brows in serious contemplation.

After a long thought that rivals Bush's favorite exercise of analyzing the pros and cons of biological warfare against Iraq, she finally decides to buy the tie.

But that isn't the end of the story. When she reaches home to present her gift to her husband, the poor guy can only shake his head in befuddlement at the array of *10 different ties* that she has bought for him. (As it turns out, after the first purchase, she went back to the other shops—because she needed to compare the tie she bought with the other ties there. And, of course, she ended up buying 10 ties!)

If her husband presses her to explain why she had to buy so many ties, she'll mumble, "Because I wasn't sure what you wanted." What she actually means is that she wasn't sure what *she* wanted.

Therapy

For many women, shopping is a form of therapy. Whenever they have a problem, they rush to a department store like they were sick and it was a hospital. And for a lot of women, every little thing is a problem. Like, if they grow a fraction of a pound heavier, they begin to feel the need to shop.

If you dare ask what connection there is between weight gain and shopping, they give you the classic stare that says: if you're so stupid that you can't figure it out for yourself, I don't have the time to explain it to you.

It's also entirely possible for some women to develop a malady that can only be cured by shopping. Like, if a friend shows them the latest color of lipstick, they go berserk and develop the uncontrollable compulsion to buy one, too. Of course, when they reach the boutique selling the item, they discover that there is a complete line of cosmetics that goes with it, and they naturally buy the whole set, if only to put one over their friend.

Opportunity

I have a friend who goes to Paris to shop each time she catches her husband with another woman—which is often. Sometimes, she shops for clothes. At one time, she bought winter wear—so she needed to spend the Christmas holidays in Switzerland, just to have the opportunity to wear all that fur!

There was also the time she went to the US to buy an entire line of furniture. When her husband returned home from his philandering, he was dumbfounded to see that they had a new living room, bedroom and dining room. And she was sulking. Because she adored imported things, but the interior decorator told her that all the furniture she bought was actually manufactured in Cebu and exported to the US!

There are women who possess a bloodhound's nose that enables them to catch the scent of bargains within the radius of a thousand miles. They know where to find the best sale the whole year round. And, since everything is a reason to hold a sale, these women have their hands so full that they hardly have time to do anything except to rush from one sale to the next.

Just don't ask them what they bought because you'll be flabbergasted. I know of someone who has a dozen TV sets in her house. Even the laundry room and the garage each have a TV set. When I inquired, she proudly admitted she bought most of them at bargain sales. "Makro offered a buy-one, take-one deal, and I'd have been stupid not to buy," she sniffed.

This is the same friend who has 13 shower curtains, 20 cutlery sets, six hampers, four sandwich makers, nine portable closets, three medicine cabinets, seven coffeemakers, 14 punchbowls, six bathroom radios, three rice dispensers, 24 starter sets—the list is endless. I know, because it amused me endlessly to count them. And, to think that most of the things she has, she's never used since the day she got them!

Wedding gift

When asked why she bought them, she says, "You never know when you need a wedding gift for someone." You know it's a lame excuse because mere news of somebody she knows getting married in a year's time is enough to make her scurry off to a department store to buy a wedding gift. Of course, it can happen that she doesn't get invited, so the gift she has bought inevitably joins her vast collection of unnecessary things.

I have another friend who holds a garage sale every six months—not because she needs the money, but because she needs to free her closets of all the clothes she has needlessly bought. I went to one of her garage sales and found that half of the clothes were unused, still wrapped in their original plastic covers.

And there's this movie star who has filled one entire bedroom in her fabulous mansion with imported foodstuffs—sardines, corned beef, luncheon meat, liver paté, noodles, pasta, soups—etc!.

Humble origins

She came from very humble origins so, when she made it in show business as one of the country's most beautiful faces, she vowed that she and her family would never go hungry again. Of course they won't—even if they reach a hundred years. The sad thing is that most of the goods she has hoarded are already spoiled, and even the hungriest glutton can't eat them anymore.

So, why am I talking to you about shopping, my dear Clara? It is precisely to tell you that shopping is fun, but it has its limits. Shop for the joy of it but don't substitute having a life for it.

Even if you become a millionaire 10 times over—as I'm quite confident you will—don't shop till you drop. For what good will your shopping do to you if you don't live to enjoy what you bought? Even if you marry a very rich man—as I pray you will—don't shop to quench your thirst for his love.

Void

If you have a void inside, don't shop to fill it up—because shopping can never do that. If at all, it can only deepen it even more, and you'll feel emptier than ever before. I should know. Remember that fabled mansion we used to have? Remember how I filled every nook and cranny with all kinds of expensive bric-a-brac? I always thought that house was never full enough—until I found out that it was my soul that needed filling up.

Now, we have a smaller house but, I believe, more happiness. We have less of the things I once thought brought meaning, but actually just cluttered up our life—but we have more of what matters most: each other.

Of course, you know that you're more precious to me than anything in this world, don't you?

For your comments and insights—badids2000@yahoo.com

Cannibal Hannibal . . .

From page E1

Rounding out the top five was former box office champion "Barbershop." The urban comedy, starring rapper Ice Cube, grossed $6.8 million, taking its four-weekend total to $60.2 million. It was released by MGM.

"Jonah" was released by privately held Artisan Entertainment. Inspired by a series of children's videos, the film stars talking vegetables who deliver Bible-based homilies.

It was released in just 940 theaters, with further expansions set for the next two weekends; by contrast, the top three movies each played in more than 3,000 theaters.

"Moonlight Mile," which takes its title from a Rolling Stones song, played in just 434 theaters, up from 22 last weekend. The tragi-comedy stars Oscar winners Hoffman and Sarandon as grieving parents, and Jake Gyllenhaal as the fiance of their late daughter. Its total gross stands at $2.4 million. *Reuters*

GONZALES. Trains educators and students to make a difference in their schools and communities.

Dr. Vivian . . .

From page E2

The VIP-CWS Qualifying Course for Coordinators/Lecturers of the National Service Training Program was inaugurated as an added institutional mechanism for the nationwide implementation of VIP-CWS under the NSTP.

In five training sessions held from May to June 2002, a total of 400 educators representing 147 state universities and colleges, higher-education institutions, Tesda-supervised institutions, and volunteers from 14 regions completed the VIP-CWS Qualifying Course designed to further enhance the capability of educators in fulfilling their mandate under RA 9163.

Need for trainors

Making the NSTP mandatory dramatically increases the need for trainors, which is why Ched encouraged all concerned to participate in the VIP-CWS Qualifying Course for the NSTP with Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales as key resource person.

Ched's directors for Regions X, XI, and Caraga have likewise issued memoranda endorsing the 6th VIP-CWS Qualifying Course for Coordinators/Lecturers of the NSTP currently being held until Oct. 13 at the Monastery of the Transfiguration, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

To learn more about what it takes to be part of the VIP-CWS community of leaders, contact (049) 536-6018 and (049) 537-8635, telefax (049) 536-5535, or e-mail vip_cws@lgn.csi.com.ph.

Email the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or call 522 5185 or 89.

Oscar official says earlier ceremony is 'a done deal'

LOS ANGELES—A plan to stage the Academy Awards show a month earlier in future years is a near certainty, said an Academy Awards official.

The board of governors for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voted in June to explore moving the Oscar show from March to February in 2004.

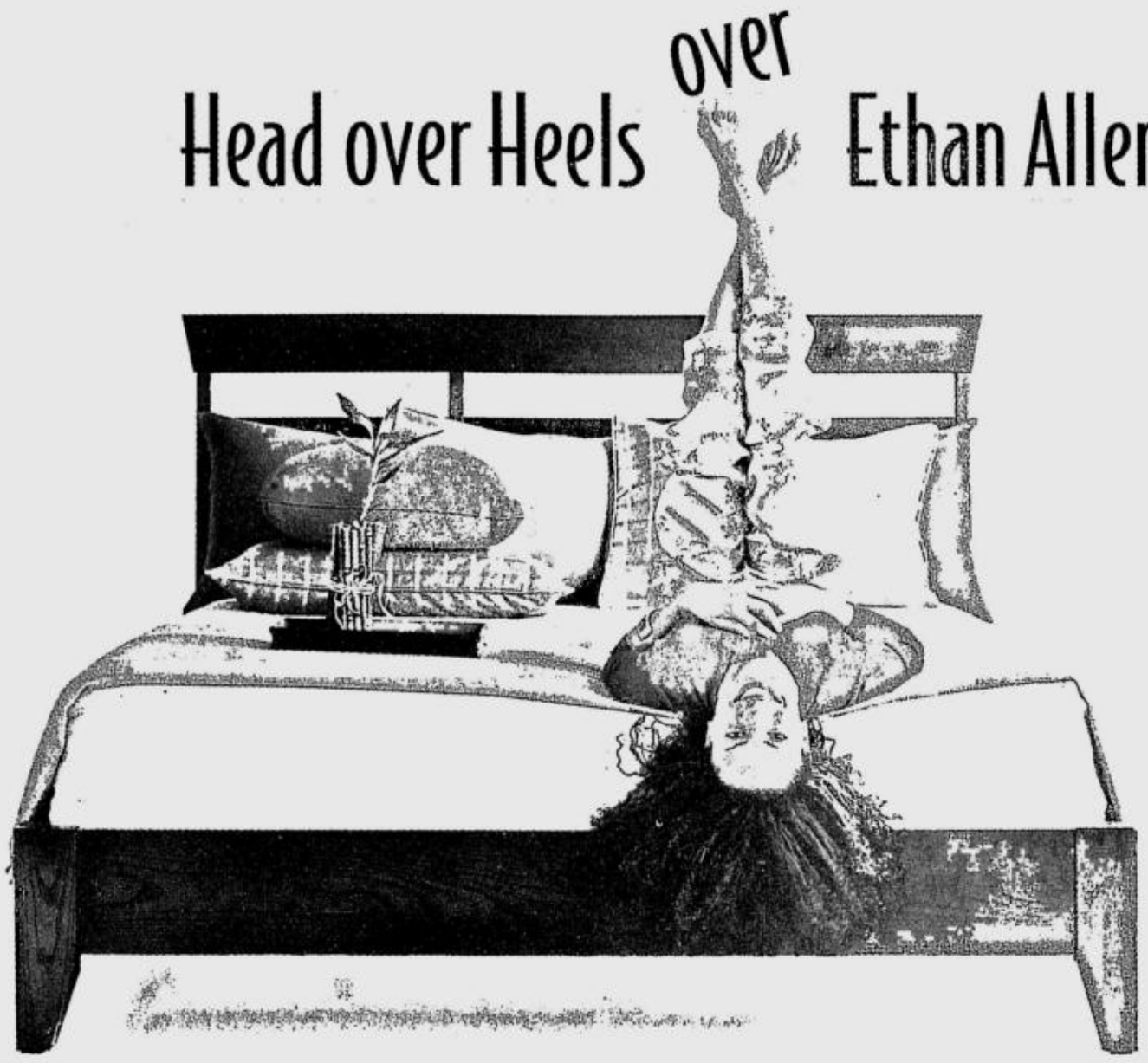
Shift

The Academy recently received approval for such a shift from its new venue, the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, and the ABC network, which broadcasts the live event.

"I think you could consider this a done deal," Academy executive director Bruce Davis said in the trade newspaper Variety.

The board has voted to change dates "as a two-year experiment," according to Davis, who added, "This is an experiment worth trying." *AP*

Head over Heels over Ethan Allen!



Platform Bed from the Horizons Collection

Annual Essentials Sale

ETHAN ALLEN HOME INTERIORS
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You'll certainly flip over the many choices from our Casual and Classic Collections. From bedroom to living room sets and accents. At discounts you'll certainly fall for...head over heels! Don't miss this once-a-year Essentials Event!

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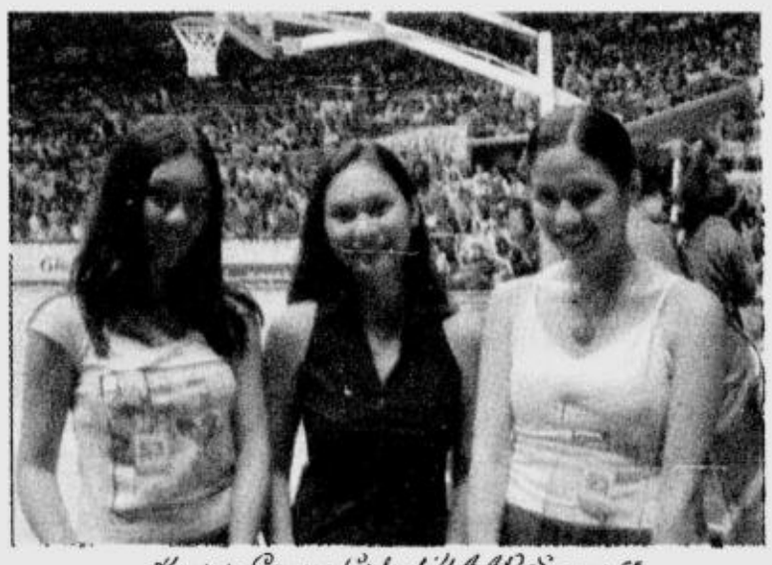


Kamiseta Campus Girls of UAAP Seasons 65
Kathleen and Alexi with courtside reporter Patty Laurel.

kamiseta
It's fun being a girl.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL KAMISETA CAMPUS GIRLS OF UAAP SEASONS 65

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

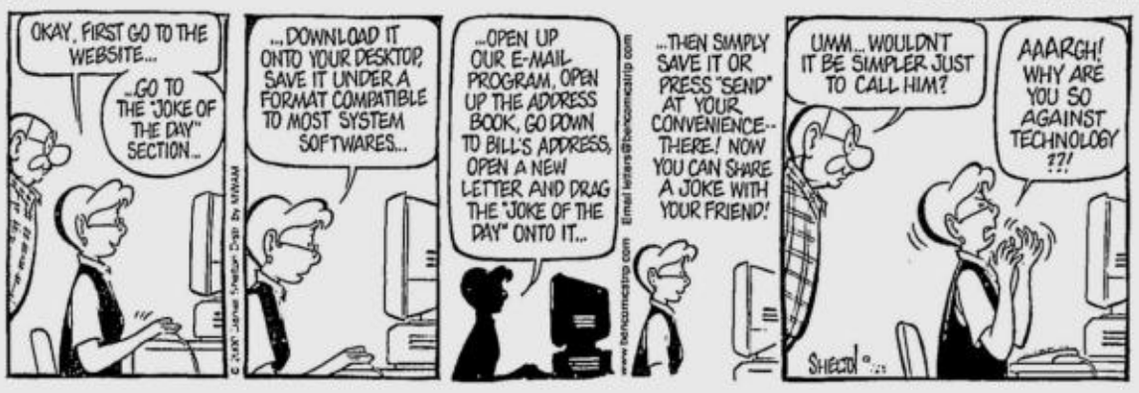
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BYPATRICK McDONNELL

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirk Cameron, Luciano Pavarotti, Tony Kubek

Happy Birthday: The year has come to push hard and to stop at nothing less than the success you are looking for. Don't let your temper lead you in the wrong direction or slow you down. This is not the year to make waves. This is a year to reflect on the past. Your numbers are 13, 19, 22, 36, 41, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out with friends or family. You may be able to get some good advice about your personal problems from those close to you. Don't avoid situations that need attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your financial future is looking somewhat brighter. Consider a better position even if it means making a residential move. Make sure everyone concerned is included in the discussions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will work well with other creative individuals today. Bounce your ideas off one another and take chances. Be as ingenious as possible. Your boss will be delighted.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend some time on yourself. You need to boost your ego if you intend to be competitive in the work force. Entertain friends in your home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may have made your mate jealous. As a Leo, you like to be at the center of things and you may have gone too far. Think about what you want and if you do care, be attentive and apologize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Property deals will finally come together. Don't be surprised if your mate shows renewed interest. Take advantage of the attention. Start to consider the conveniences you would like implemented into your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This will be a perfect day to discuss future plans with a good friend. Since they know you so well, their perceptions will be extremely helpful. You may find that romantic attractions will surface when you least expect it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is a very creative period for you. Extra cash can be yours if you implement those innovative ideas you've been having. Talk to a friend who knows about marketing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have a change of heart when you see an old romantic flame. Go over the reasons why you split up before. Try to be as honest and fair as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be preoccupied with your emotional state. It's interfering with the rest of your life, so call the person who's on your mind and set up a time to get together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your stable and knowledgeable approach to finding solutions will be appreciated. These skills will bring you popularity and leadership possibilities in organizations you interact with.

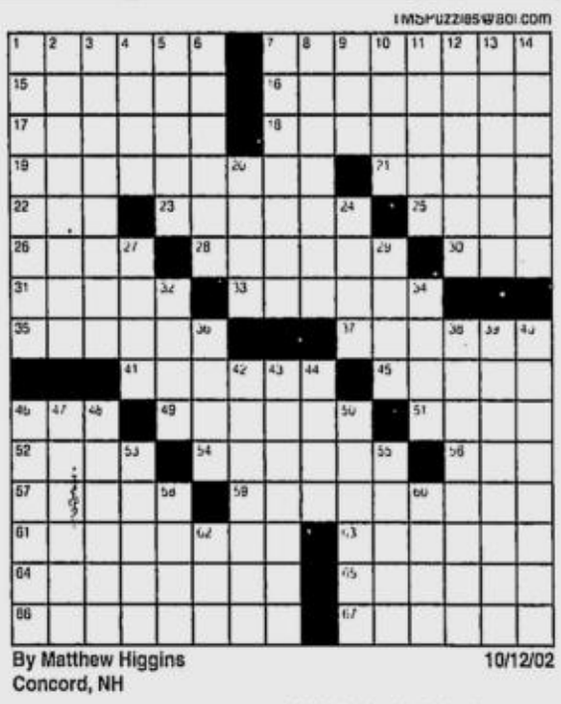
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Plan an eventful day for you and your lover. Too much idle time may result in disputes. Postpone the talks to another time. Go out and participate in social functions.

Birthday Baby: You will be determined to forge ahead throughout your life no matter what you face along the way. You will be sensitive, emotional and always willing to lend a helping hand.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Casino worker
7 Change the dialogue
15 Room recess
16 "View of Toledo" and "The Adoration"
17 Small-minded person
18 Computer bank
19 Those requesting a new hearing
21 German sausage
22 Egyptian deity
23 Elton John hit
25 Institutes legal proceedings
26 Serene
28 "Grover Cleveland" biographer
30 180 degrees from NNW
31 Remove a lid
33 Intuits
35 Retail establishments
37 Feature
41 Move unsteadily
45 Relish
46 D.C. big shot
49 Reception room
51 Domesticated
52 Jogger's gait
54 In a chair
56 Bean-counter's letters
57 Competitor
59 Astronaut's outfit
61 Ships on sharp runners
63 Pierce with a sharpened stake
64 Liable to err
65 Horn blower
66 Indispensable qualities
67 Penetrates

DOWN
1 Syrian capital
2 Republican emblem
3 Mexican resort
4 __ Star State
5 French spa of note
6 "__ and Rockin'"
7 Hit a Mulligan
8 Collagen cousin
9 Bilko or Snorkel, e.g.
10 Bird's crop
11 Picture puzzle
12 High-flyer of myth
13 Rustler chasers
14 Fly to avoid
20 Scrapes (by)
24 Latin handle
27 Trading center
29 Hr. with a shrink
32 Look furtively
34 Petty quarrel
36 Bounding mains
38 Clear out
39 Anthology collector
40 Check payers
42 Bridge framework
43 Slips by, as time
44 Ecclesiastical court
46 Discord
47 Jong and others
48 Works of fiction
50 Repeat from memory
53 Data display
55 Evil spirit
58 Cut of meat
60 Predicament
62 Natl. TV network



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
10/12/02

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	S	H	A		A	S	S	N		A	F	E	W
E	N	T	E	R		S	T	A	T		R	I	L	E
S	T	R	E	T	C	H	A	C	H	E	R	E	S	T
C	O	O	L		L	E	I	S		D	O	L	E	S
I	N	K		F	A	R	R		L	E	W	D		
		E	C	O	N		S	T	E	N		S	P	A
A	B	N	E	R		P	L	A	N		A	W	A	Y
S	L	I	D	E	S	E	A	T	O	F	F	I	C	E
T	I	N	E		C	A	S	E		L	A	N	E	S
A	P	E		R	O	T	H		B	O	R	G		
		S	P	A	T		P	E	R	P		W	O	W
A	S	P	I	C		D	E	L	I		A	A	A	A
S	L	A	P	Y	A	R	D	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
P	U	C	E		B	N	A	I		S	T	E	E	N
S	E	E	S		S	O	L	D		F	E	R	D	E

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10/12/02

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

The DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY and the PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

MEET THE WINNERS

Outstanding Filipino Retailers 2002

'Recognizing the country's retailers who have epitomized the model for a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices'

"RECOGNIZING the country's retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices."

The Philippine Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry launched the Search for Outstanding Filipino Retailers 2002.

The award, now on its 6th year, seeks to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world-class standards and practices and be globally competitive.

The award will recognize the Filipino Retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

Minimum qualifications

The contest is open to all Filipino homegrown retailers, excluding convenience stores, service establishments, food establishments, groceries and supermarkets.

The company must have been in operation for a minimum of five years except for Most Promising Retailer, which must have been in operation for a minimum of two years.

The company must be registered with the DTI/SEC and BIR.

Categories

- Full line department store
- Category Specialist

Fashion and Non-fashion

- Medium Store
- Small Store
- Most Promising Retailer
- Mall of the Year (new category)

These categories are based on Asset Size: Medium-P101M-Up; Small-P100M and below

Criteria for judging

Marketing	40 percent
Operations	20 percent
Sales	20 percent
Environment	10 percent
Reputation	10 percent
Total	100 percent

Nomination Process

Any organization, company, or individual may nominate a retailer for the search. Nomination forms are available at the PRA or DTI Office nearest you.

Submission of Bid Book

Each Nominee will be requested to submit a Bid Book that contains the following documents to qualify for the screening process.

1. Company Profile (include list of key officers)
2. Copy of registration papers with DTI/SEC and BIR
3. Latest audited Financial Statement
4. Duly accomplished application form
5. 5 x 7 photo (interior and exterior)
6. Tape, brochure, catalogue, etc. and other materials that will support your application

All forms and pertinent documents may be submitted to PRA or any DTI regional office. Only duly accomplished application forms with complete supporting documents will be considered.

For more information, please contact:
Philippine Retailers Association
Unit 2610 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue and Ruby Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.: 687-4180 *687-4181 *687-4985
Fax No.: 636-0825 / E-mail: pra@nwave.net
Look for Ms. Evelyn Balmeo Salire, Sec. Gen.
Department of Trade and Industry, 2/F, Trade and Industry Building361
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel.: 890-4855 *890-4933 / Fax: 890-4858 / E-mail: bdtp@dti.gov.ph
Look for Mr. Merynado Orbeta, Director

OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILERS 2002 WINNERS

Hall of Fame	PENSHOPPE
Best Shopping Center of the Year	
Winner	AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Finalists	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
	AYALA CENTER CEBU
	ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA
	SHANGRI-LA MANILA
Category Specialist	
Winner	MERCURY DRUG
Medium Scale Category	
Fashion Winner	BAYO
Finalists	CELINE
	ITTI SHOES
	RUSTY LOPEZ
Non-Fashion Winner	PICTURE CITY
Finalists	GIFT GATE
	KAMERAWORLD
Small Scale Factory	
Fashion Winner	ISLANDS SOUVENIR
Finalist	ARTWORK
Non-Fashion Winner	DESIGNER BLOOMS
Finalist	REGALONG PAMBAHAY
Most Promising Retailer	
Fashion Winner	FOLDED&HUNG
Non-Fashion Winner	PCX
Finalist	PRESCRIPTO

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AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA · GREENBELT

Just buy P75.00 worth of meal plus any product of Coca-Cola at the Shang Food Court from Sept. 14 - Nov. 30, 2002. Redeem the raffle coupon on the day of your purchase. Fill it out and drop in dropboxes. Winning has never been so delicious!

*Non-winning entries in the first draw will still qualify for the grand draw. See posters & leaflets for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-621, Series of 2002

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EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: 633-7851 • www.shangrila-plaza.com

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1st Catholic achievers confab

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Beta Rho Omega homecoming

THE BETA Rho Omega Fraternity Alumni Association celebrates its 37th foundation anniversary with a grand homecoming Oct.12, 3 p.m. at Pook Ligaya, Holy Spirit Drive, Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City. The theme for this year is "Solidarity: Come and be One". Pioneers Dr. Ed Gonzales, director Joe Isada and Pat Caballo Jr are hosts for this year. Activities and elections of the incoming Grand Council officers would also be held today. The formal unveiling of Beta Rho Omega Fraternity official website will be held during the grand reunion. All BRO members can call the secretariat at 930-9120 or 428-7747 (ask for Dodo or Daggy), e-mail arcia0427@yahoo.com, or text 0916-5100736/ 09178434993 for more details.

PRA, DTI honor outstanding retailers

THE PHILIPPINE Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently honored the 2002 Outstanding Filipino Retailers in an Oscars-inspired Award Night at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

A total of nine outstanding retailers were awarded in different categories. They were the following: Most Promising Retailers – Folded & Hung (fashion) and PCX (non-fashion); Small Scale – Islands Souvenirs (fashion) and Designer Blooms (non-fashion); Medium Scale – Ba-yo (fashion) and Picture (non-fashion); Category Specialist – Mercury Drug (non-fashion).

The best shopping center of the year, which is the newest category, was awarded to Ayala Center Makati.

The awards highest distinction, which is the Hall of Fame went to Penshoppe for winning in the Medium Scale-Fashion category for two consecutive years.

Launched 6 years ago, the search aims to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world-class standards and practices and be globally competitive, and to recognize Filipino retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

The set criteria for judging include marketing and promotion, which goes for 40 percent; operations, 20 percent; sales, 20 percent; environment, 10 percent and reputation, 10 percent.

Former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo, the award's guest of honor and DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. led this year's distinguished personalities from government, private and the retail sector in general.

Aptly billed "A Night of Style and Fashion", it is the retail industry's version of the Oscars Awards Night, which featured a fashion segment of the latest collections of the three young Filipino designers who competed and won in the international competitions.

Dong Omaga Diaz, 1999 Grand Lessage Prix awardee, 17th Concours International de Jeune Createurs de Mode; Ignacio Loyola, 1999 Smirnoff Designer of the Year, Smirnoff International Fashion Awards and Jojie Lloren, 1998 Grand Prize Awardee, Concours International de Jeune Createur de Mode, presented their winning designs to an audience of top retailers and industry practitioners.

THE 2002 Outstanding Filipino Retailers in a celebratory toast led by the guest of honor former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo (6th from left) and DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr (7th from left). Shown (from left) are Jacinto Concepcion, vice president, Mercury Drug – category specialist; PRA chair emeritus Samie Lim; Eliseo Santos, chair, Picture City – medium scale, non-fashion; Jay Aldeguer, president, Islands Souvenirs – small scale, fashion; Ronald V. Pineda, president, Folded & Hung – most promising retailer – fashion; PRA chair Manuel M. Siggaoat; Penshoppe's (Hall of Fame) CEO Bernie Liu and wife Alice; Francis Roxas, senior division manager, Ayala Center – best shopping center of the year; PRA vice chair for internal affairs Bing S. Limjoco; Ferdinand Agustin (partly hidden), president, Ba-yo – medium scale – fashion; Roberto S. Claudio, PRA vice chair external affairs; PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III; Bryan Lim (partly hidden), PCX – most promising retailer – non-fashion. Senior vice president Issa R. Garcia of Designer Blooms – small scale – non-fashion was also a winner but not in picture.

Shown (from left) are PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, PRA chair Emeritus Samie Lim, former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo, DTI Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. and PRA chair Manuel M. Siggaoat.

DTI Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.

Former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo

PRA chair Emeritus Samie Lim

Penshoppe makes a global name

HOW TO MAKE a brand a global name?

Penshoppe, the clothing manufacturer that produces the popular youth apparel and products knows that the key in making a brand known and famous is in the bringing of products closer to targeted markets.

In a short span of time, Penshoppe has already invaded the Filipino market through their extensive presence not only in malls and retail outlets but also in mass media promotions. The Penshoppe brand is already synonymous with quality clothing that can match products with imported labels.

Aside from conquering the local territory, Penshoppe is currently in the process of making its products a "global" brand by setting up two stores in China this year. Penshoppe has opened retail branches in SM City and the World Trade Center in Xiamen in April and July.

Albert Ong, SVP for marketing at Penshoppe, says the company has successfully influenced the change in thinking of the consumers on their products from "local" to "global."

"We Filipinos are very creative and adaptable. Instead of feeling threatened by the influx of imported products here, we should be inspired to also penetrate their markets. If they can do it here, we should do it in their territories."

Penshoppe has received the Hall of Fame recognition from Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), an organization that gives awards annually to the country's top retailers.

The award, says Dino Sagun, SVP for sales and operations, recognizes the company's efforts to adapt to world-class standards and practices and at the same time for becoming "globally competitive."

To also promote a "global brand," Penshoppe employs international artists to endorse the product. Currently actor-singer Mandy Moore has been tapped for this purpose.

"The projection of the image of Penshoppe is young and wholesome. We have maintained that through the years. We're not sexy and seductive," says Sagun.

Penshoppe was started by Bernie Liu with a group of friends in 1986. Bernie's family was into the manufacture of commercial shirts. Benie saw the potential of creating a brand out of the shirts they manufactured. Penshoppe started with 40 employees and was based initially in Cebu. Now its manufacturing operations are in Manila and Cebu.

Ong says the Philippine market for apparel is huge and the challenge for the retailer is to "make the brand the preferred brand in the minds of target market."

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THE SAN Isidro Catholic School in 1830 Taft Avenue, Pasay City, is currently holding its first Catholic Achievers Convention until today, Oct 12, at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Malate, Manila. Themed "San Isidro Catholic School: Journeying Towards the Third Millennium," the convention aims to provide an avenue of interaction and exchange of ideas on how San Isidro Catholic School can be an agent of social transformation and a community of faith in response to the demand of the new millennium. The school was founded in 1967 with the initiative of Manuel D Benipayo, then the head of the Christian Family Movement of the parish. Today, it has around 40 faculty members and more than a thousand students from pre-school to the secondary level. For more information, call the San Isidro Catholic School at 536-4933 or 524-4871.

Beta Rho Omega homecoming

THE BETA Rho Omega Fraternity Alumni Association celebrates its 37th foundation anniversary with a grand homecoming Oct.12, 3 p.m. at Pook Ligaya, Holy Spirit Drive, Don Antonio Heights, Quezon City. The theme for this year is "Solidarity: Come and be One". Pioneers Dr. Ed Gonzales, director Joe Isada and Pat Caballo Jr are hosts for this year. Activities and elections of the incoming Grand Council officers would also be held today. The formal unveiling of Beta Rho Omega Fraternity official website will be held during the grand reunion. All BRO members can call the secretariat at 930-9120 or 428-7747 (ask for Dodo or Daggy), e-mail arcia0427@yahoo.com, or text 0916-5100736/ 09178434993 for more details.

PRA, DTI honor outstanding retailers

THE PHILIPPINE Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently honored the 2002 Outstanding Filipino Retailers in an Oscars-inspired Award Night at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

A total of nine outstanding retailers were awarded in different categories. They were the following: Most Promising Retailers – Folded & Hung (fashion) and PCX (non-fashion); Small Scale – Islands Souvenirs (fashion) and Designer Blooms (non-fashion); Medium Scale – Ba-yo (fashion) and Picture (non-fashion); Category Specialist – Mercury Drug (non-fashion).

The best shopping center of the year, which is the newest category, was awarded to Ayala Center Makati.

The awards highest distinction, which is the Hall of Fame went to Penshoppe for winning in the Medium Scale-Fashion category for two consecutive years.

Launched 6 years ago, the search aims to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world-class standards and practices and be globally competitive, and to recognize Filipino retailers who have institutionalized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

The set criteria for judging include marketing and promotion, which goes for 40 percent; operations, 20 percent; sales, 20 percent; environment, 10 percent and reputation, 10 percent.

Former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo, the award's guest of honor and DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. led this year's distinguished personalities from government, private and the retail sector in general.

Aptly billed "A Night of Style and Fashion", it is the retail industry's version of the Oscars Awards Night, which featured a fashion segment of the latest collections of the three young Filipino designers who competed and won in the international competitions.

Dong Omaga Diaz, 1999 Grand Lessage Prix awardee; 17th Concours International de Jeune Createurs de Mode; Ignacio Loyola, 1999 Smirnoff Designer of the Year, Smirnoff International Fashion Awards and Jojie Lloren, 1998 Grand Prize Awardee, Concours International de Jeune Createur de Mode, presented their winning designs to an audience of top retailers and industry practitioners.

THE 2002 Outstanding Filipino Retailers in a celebratory toast led by the guest of honor former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo (6th from left) and DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr (7th from left). Shown (from left) are Jacinto Concepcion, vice president, Mercury Drug – category specialist; PRA chair emeritus Samie Lim; Eliseo Santos, chair, Picture City – medium scale, non-fashion; Jay Aldeguer, president, Islands Souvenirs – small scale, fashion; Ronald V. Pineda, president, Folded & Hung – most promising retailer – fashion; PRA chair Manuel M. Siggaoat; Penshoppe's (Hall of Fame) CEO Bernie Liu and wife Alice; Francis Roxas, senior division manager, Ayala Center – best shopping center of the year; PRA vice chair for internal affairs Bing S. Limjoco; Ferdinand Agustin (partly hidden), president, Ba-yo – medium scale – fashion; Roberto S. Claudio, PRA vice chair external affairs; PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III; Bryan Lim (partly hidden), PCX – most promising retailer – non-fashion. Senior vice president Issa R. Garcia of Designer Blooms – small scale – non-fashion was also a winner but not in picture.

Shown (from left) are PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, PRA chair Emeritus Samie Lim, former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo, DTI Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. and PRA chair Manuel M. Siggaoat.

DTI Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.

Former DTI Secretary Jose T. Pardo

PRA chair Emeritus Samie Lim

Penshoppe makes a global

HOW TO MAKE a brand a global name?

Penshoppe, the clothing manufacturer that produces the popular youth apparel and products knows that the key in making a brand known and famous is in the bringing of products closer to targeted markets.

In a short span of time, Penshoppe has already invaded the Filipino market through their extensive presence not only in malls and retail outlets but also in mass media promotions. The Penshoppe brand is already synonymous with quality clothing that can match products with imported labels.

Aside from conquering the local territory, Penshoppe is currently in the process of making its products a "global" brand by setting up two stores in China this year. Penshoppe has opened retail branches in SM City and the World Trade Center in Xiamen in April and July.

Albert Ong, SVP for marketing at Penshoppe, says the company has successfully influenced the change in thinking of the consumers on their products from "local" to "global."

"We Filipinos are very creative and adaptable. Instead of feeling threatened by the influx of imported products here, we should be inspired to also penetrate their markets. If they can do it here, we should do it in their territories."

Penshoppe has received the Hall of Fame recognition from Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), an organization that gives awards annually to the country's top retailers.

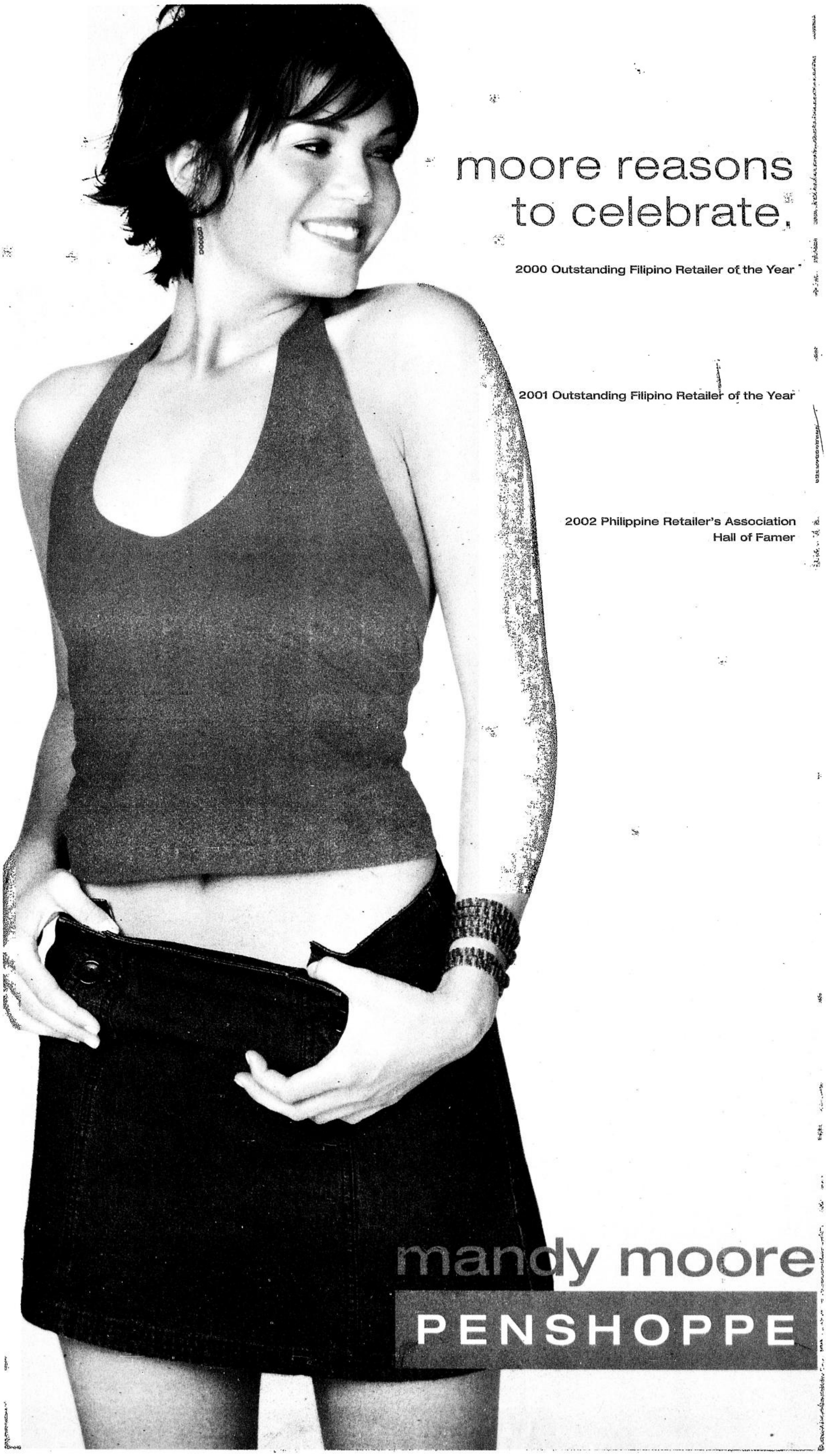
The award, says Dino Sagun, SVP for sales and operations, recognizes the company's efforts to adapt to world-class standards and practices and at the same time for becoming "globally competitive."

To also promote a "global brand," Penshoppe employs international artists to endorse the product. Currently actor-singer Mandy Moore has been tapped for this purpose.

"The projection of the image of Penshoppe is young and wholesome. We have maintained that through the years. We're not sexy and seductive," says Sagun.

Penshoppe was started by Bernie Liu with a group of friends in 1986. Bernie's family was into the manufacture of commercial shirts. Benie saw the potential of creating a brand out of the shirts they manufactured. Penshoppe started with 40 employees and was based initially in Cebu. Now its manufacturing operations are in Manila and Cebu.

Ong says the Philippine market for apparel is huge and the challenge for the retailer is to "make the brand the preferred brand in the minds of target market."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ALESSANDRA de Rossi (left), Irma Adlawan and Malou Crisologo all play teachers in Portes' movie.

'MGA MUNTING TINIG'

Small film with a very big heart

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR us, the buzz on Gil Portes' latest film started with our learning that one of its scriptwriters was Adolf Alix, one of the youngest graduates of our screenwriting workshops for the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines. Adolf was only 17 when he took the workshop, *and* only 18 when he won first prize in the FDFPI's nationwide screenwriting contest, with a script, "Ada" that was later filmed by ReynaFilms as "Minsan, May Dalawang Bata."

Signal honor

Next, we heard that "Mga Munting Tinig" had been chosen for exhibition in this year's Toronto International Film Festival—a signal honor.

Then, Eggie Apostol called us up to inform us that her Foundation for Worldwide People Power was on a new mission to uplift the image of teachers, and to help needy schools all over the country.

She was looking for a film about teachers and students to use to generate interest and public support for the foundation's new educational thrust, and asked us to track down "Mga Munting Tinig" and request for a screening.

After Gil and company returned from Toronto, we were able to make the needed contact, and the screening was arranged for Eggie and other special guests.

Delighted

Gil was delighted that so many people were interested in his latest film, and even more gratified when, after viewing the film and liking it, Eggie asked him if he would agree to the film's being premiered by the foundation. The premiere would boost the foundation's educational objective *and* drum up interest in the film, so it was a win-win scenario for all concerned.

Later, arrangements for the invitational premiere were finalized. It will be held at 5 p.m. today at the Premiere THX theater. The foundation will launch its Education Revolution project before the film is shown.

Importance

We're glad that we were able to be of some help in this regard, because we believe in the importance of the foundation's new educational thrust *and* in "Mga Munting Tinig," a small film with a very big heart. It has won adherents abroad, and it's high time that it also be appreciated here.

For a movie with a relatively small budget that took only 15 days to shoot, Gil's film has been doing very well, indeed. Here's what its early boosters abroad have to say about it:

"Smoothly and sensitively directed, a profoundly affecting and hopeful film"—Steve Gravestock, program manager, Toronto filmfest.

"It's an uplifting optimistic film, much needed in our current times"—Liz Czach, programmer, Perspective Canada.

"A powerful and heartwarming film"—Eugenia Tirdatova, Moscow filmfest.

Director of programming

"The American Film Institute is honored to include 'Small Voices' in its list of New Asian Film Classics"—Nancy Collet, director of programming, AFI Los Angeles filmfest.

"Very unique. It should do very well in the Oscar race for Best Foreign Language Film"—Jacob M. Nellendam, Screen International.

"Finally, a Philippine film that has inspiration and heart"—Asian Pacific Critics Association newsletter.

Why has "Mga Munting Tinig" elicited such

SMALL/ F2

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Jackie Chan doffs tuxedo, wants to do first musical

HONG KONG—Martial arts star Jackie Chan says instead of coming out swinging, he wants to come out singing in an upcoming film.

Chan, who is world renowned for his action films, told reporters on Monday he was already planning his musical debut and forays into non-action flicks.

Script

"I want to do a musical. In fact I'm in talks about a script for a musical, or semi-musical. There will be singing and a little action," said the Asian superstar, was in Hong Kong to promote his new movie "The Tuxedo," "I'll also do a romance drama without action. It'll co-star a famous Hollywood actress," he said, without elaborating.

The Hong Kong kung fu star, who has been talking about moving away from his trademark death-defying stunts for the past year, will also act in a remake of the classic film "Around the World in Eighty Days," based on Jules Verne's famous novel.

He will play Passepartout, a wily thief who is taken in by English nobleman and inventor Phileas Fogg.

Big stars

"A lot of big stars will make a guest appearance in this film," Chan said, who was wearing a black traditional Chinese outfit.

Together with a number of other Hollywood and Hong Kong projects, Chan said he had enough movie projects on his plate to keep him busy until 2005.

Chan's latest film combines martial arts fighting, computer effects, comic sidekicks and romance.

The movie, which debuted in the United States recently and opened in Hong Kong last Thursday, features Chan as a secret agent's chauffeur who dons his boss's gadget-filled tuxedo.

A veteran of well over 100 films, mostly made in Hong Kong, Chan has made a major inroad into Hollywood movies in the 1990s. *Reuters*

CHAN: "I'm tired of fighting. I've always known that I can't be an action star all my life." AP

Maryo J directs his most controversial film

By Edmund L. Sicam

DIREK Maryo J. de los Reyes has directed his most controversial film to date—a trilogy titled "Bedtime Stories," designed as a launching vehicle for sexy star Maricar de Mesa. The first episode deals with sadomasochism, the second with necrophilia, and the third with the drug, Ecstacy. Doesn't he think he's pushing the envelope too far by dealing with something like necrophilia in a movie? "I don't think so... the way it was treated, it was very lyrical. There was no nudity whatsoever."

Perversion

But it's still sex with a dead person, right? "*Siguro* the idea is morbid, but *hindi siya* repulsive. On the contrary, the end result was, he realized it was a perversion. These are stories about everything you wanted to know about sex but were afraid to ask . . . *mga* taboo. When I was brainstorming, I said, let's touch on something that's not always talked about."

Considering the trouble he had with the censors with "Laman," doesn't he think he'll encounter more problems now? "I don't think so, because this is treated more lightly. *Ang* approach *dito* is more thematic and not really realism *per se*, more as a satire on sado masochism. . .

"The necrophilia was treated with glossiness, dream-like. And then the third episode is more of an MTV. I was emphasizing form rather than content."

("Bedtime Stories" was rated X by the MTRCB on first review. Maryo trimmed the sensitive scenes and got an R on second review.)

"BEDTIME Stories" stars Wendell Ramos and Maricar de Mesa.

Launching movie

People know he did the trilogy, "Red Diaries," as Assunta De Rossi's launching movie. Now, it's Maricar's turn to be launched, and it's also with a trilogy. Doesn't he think there will be comparisons? "Assunta was fresher, more raw. *Parang bata yan, e.* She was 18 and she went through a complete change from her sweet image. While Maricar is more mature, she's 21. And at the same time, she's more cerebral than Assunta, that's why *ang* approach *ko sa kanya* is more didactic. *Hindi katulad kay* Assunta *na, o, ang emosyon nito, ganito . . . Kay* Maricar, *kasi nakapag-aral siya,* graduate *siya, gusto kong* approach *sa kanya, nag-iisip siya.*"

"Bedtime Stories" is Maricar's most daring movie so far. Did he have a difficult time with her? "No. *Nag*-workshop *kami ng dalawang araw. Tapos sinabi ko kung ano'ng gusto ko.* But she had her reluctant moments, which I tried to help ease out. Like, I would demand a take 2, up to take 5, take 7. . . *kasi sabi ko, gagawin mo lang naman, gawin na natin ng mabuti.*

"It became a challenge for her—if you want to be known, you do bold movies. But I told her she had to be ready for it. *Sabi ko, ano ba ang* restriction *mo? Ang* restriction *niya,* no frontal nudity. Which I did not require from her, even when she was lying on the embalming table. *Yung pagtanggal ng* cover *sa* body *niya, sinundan ko yung kamay, hindi sa tinanggal na tela.*"

Paul McCartney finds his own musical identity in 'Wingspan: Hits and History'

By Noelani Torre

"A HARD act to follow," said Sir Paul McCartney. "Almost impossible. But what could I do?" He was talking, of course, about the Beatles. How, indeed, could anyone, even a Paul McCartney, follow the world's most influential and adored band?

Advantage

"The advantage of being Paul McCartney in the '60s, composer of many of the decade's great songs, was the proverbial millstone at the start of the '70s," writes Mark Lewisohn in his sleevenotes to "Wingspan (Hits and History)" (MPL/Parlophone). "No chance now of easing a new career into first gear unnoticed."

But McCartney, though discouraged at first, soon showed the world that he wasn't dead yet. Thus the group often disparagingly labeled as "Paul's other band" was born.

Many people don't even know it existed. "That's because it was nothing like the Beatles," a Beatlemaniac friend sniffs. Indeed, Wings, which was formed in 1971, was certainly different from the Beatles. They made more "poppy" songs, for one, and though the voice was still familiarly McCartney, there was no John Lennon around this time.

Brave move

We think it was a particularly brave move for McCartney to leave his superstar status behind and start out with small university tours with a rough group that included his wife Linda. He got the last laugh when Wings became one of the biggest bands of the '70s and '80s.

We became aware of Wings just recently when we listened to several minutes' worth of "Wingspan (Hits and History)," the two-CD collection of McCartney and Wings music that has already gone platinum. It was released along with the "Wingspan" made-for-TV movie that many have caught on cable one time or another these past months.

The album, with one CD chronicling the "Hits" and the other the "History," is illuminating for those of us who didn't grow up during the '70s, when Wings reached the height of its fame. Still, we are quite familiar with a number of their songs, such as "Listen To What The Man Said" and "Silly Love Songs." Wings did, after all, have five No. 1 albums and a USA stadium show that broke the Beatles' own attendance record.

Bumpy ride

"It was a bumpy ride: bans, busts, mixed reviews," writes Lewisohn. "Wings never lacked for effort, however—the fast-track release pattern of the '60s was maintained, so that the colossal 'Band On The Run' was Paul McCartney's fifth album in three years."

McCARTNEY. A mixture of party pop, gritty rock and sentimental love songs.

It is remarkably easy to listen to "Wingspan," all 151 minutes of it—though, like all compilations, it isn't perfect. There are 40 songs, all chosen by McCartney, and all digitally re-mastered for our listening pleasure.

"Wingspan" is a misnomer, however, because the album includes tracks that aren't Wings songs, but all in all it is a comprehensive compilation of the post-Beatles era of McCartney's music. Rock purists might find it hard to reconcile themselves with its distinctively pop sound, but they certainly can't deny that McCartney's skill in music-making is apparent throughout the album.

McCartney never intended to surpass or replace the Beatles, after all, and so, though his song lyrics may oftentimes be shallow, they are honestly so. His strength lies in his melodiousness and lyricism, and these are what he plays up.

Idiosyncratic strain

McCartney's music has an idiosyncratic strain, as evidenced by its mixture of party pop, gritty rock and sentimental love songs. It is interesting to note all these different directions that his music takes:

"Jet" and "Live And Let Die," are pile-driving rockers, for example, while "Waterfalls" is a dreamy pastoral and "My Love" an undeniable mush trip.

He excels in presenting us with the ordinary, domestic moments in life in clear, simple lyrics and catchy rhythms, and it is unfair to keep harping on his Beatles past, although it is certainly too big and influential to be denied.

In "Wingspan," what we hear is a musician trying to find his own musical identity and create his own style. Our personal favorites in this collection include the classic rock-sounding "Junior's Farm," the splendid "Maybe I'm Amazed," and the charming and tender "Junk."

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Jay Manalo, current screen hotshot

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

JAY Manalo worked hard for nine years before reaching his current status as the country's most sought-after sexy actor.

If you empathized with him in "Prosti," you'll be awed by his intense performance in "Paraisong Parisukat," his reunion movie with ex-lover Joyce Jimenez.

Manalo realizes that the challenge is for him now is to rise above roles that continually require him to bare. "I'd like to think that now, it will be just incidental *na kailangan maghubad ako dahil* there must be a love scene in the movie. *Hindi katulad dati, kailangang mag*-sexy *ako para magka-movie.*"

Ready for the bigtime

Vina Morales gets her big concert showcase in "Vina Revealed!" on Oct. 26 at the Folk Arts Theater. She's getting the jitters becasue the concert will be the realization of her dreams. To calm Vina down, her producers have invited Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano to sing some songs, to ensure that the crowds will come. The Powerboys are also in the musical show, despite the fact that only two of them can carry a tune.

MANALO. Intense performance.

Well, Vina's a nice young lady and hopefully, she'll be able to pull this tough act off. But we hope that she doesn't belt out "Pangako sa Yo" in her concert. It's time to give the song up—the soap had already ended.

Friends and competitors

Best buddies Ogie Alcasid and Michael V are heading for a big fight for top comedy actor honors in the forthcoming Star Awards for Television.

Michael V won the plum four times until he was edged out last year by surprise winner Bong Revilla Jr. They say it might just be Ogie's turn this year. But a major hurdle is looming on the horizon, because talk has it that they are facing stiff competition from Raymart Santiago.

Well, we are no longer surprised about the inclusion of some celebrities in this awards race simply because they are *"malakas."*

How do Ogie and Michael feel about the awards race?

Michael: "I always look forward to it, since it is the only competition that recognizes television actors. I'm grateful that they appreciate our kind of comedy in 'Bubble Gang.' I'd be most proud if Ogie wins it this time, *kesa mapunta kung kanino lang, di ba?*"

Ogie: "Michael is a great comedy actor and he has a brilliant mind. The four times he's won it, he deserved it more than anybody else. But it would be nice if I got one, too. I'm sure Michael won't mind, *kesa sa iba lang mapunta!*"

Stars galore at The Pen's anniversary

Happiness was written all over the faces of the employees of The Peninsula Manila when the hotel celebrated its 26th anniversary last Monday. Aptly choosing the "Survivor" theme for these very trying times for the country's travel and tourism industry, the hotel executives, led by general manager David Batchelor, also cited some outstanding employees.

Guest performers included Martin Nievera, Chad Borja, Jessa Zaragosa, Bituin Escalante, Calvin Millado, John Lapuz, and the Powerboys.

Small film with a very big heart

From page F1

glowing notices? The notes on the film in the Toronto filmfest's festival book provide some answers:

"For many, the best of Filipino cinema is defined by its resolute devotion to exposing the country's problems. With 'Small Voices,' director Gil M. Portes opts for a decidedly more optimistic stance, albeit one tempered by a realistic outlook. It is the kind of paradoxical movie that is as heartwarming as it is hard-edged.

SCREENWRITERS Alix, Que and Portes.

THE MOVIE playing to a full house at Varsity Cinema in Toronto.

Remote province

"The film follows Melissa (Alessandra de Rossi), who comes to a remote province to replace another teacher who is leaving for a bright future in an unnamed country. Immediately, Melinda encounters problems . . .

"When a bureaucrat saunters by to inform the school about a choral contest, Melinda senses an opportunity, but she'll have to convince everyone—children, parents and her peers—that participating is in their best interests. It's not an easy task . . ."

The local premiere of "Mga Munting Tinig" is invitational. But the film will have a limited release later this month, so be sure to see it, to find out for yourselves why it is making waves abroad. It should have a greater impact here.

And, as you appreciate its story about teachers and students learning how to rise above their limitations, also think about what you yourself can do to help raise the level of education in this country by supporting the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's new Education Revolution.

All our small voices, put together, will speak forcefully as one.

Weck sandwich at Katre . . .

From page F3

topped with a nice crunchy filet of fish. Super delicious, but I wouldn't smile too much right after having a mouthful. I also love the salmon pasta, and many other dishes.

His desserts need a facelift, though.

Katre is located where the former Toque restaurant used to be. For reservations, call 373-4705 or 374-6650. Happy eating!

'Widowmaker' film riles Russian veterans

By Konstantin Trifonov

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Survivors from Russia's first nuclear submarine disaster could not hide ironic smiles when on Sunday they watched a Hollywood rendition of their deadly fight against a reactor spinning out of control.

Premiere

But as the final credits rolled on the screen, grey-haired uniformed veterans rose to applaud the fantasy-filled story of human courage subduing ungovernable machine at the premiere in Russia of the US blockbuster "K-19: The Widowmaker."

"Only two things in the film are true: the bottle of champagne did not break when the submarine was launched and yes, there was an accident with the reactor," the craft's navigator, Valentin Shabanov, 62, told Reuters.

"The rest are tales from Uncle Sam." The film, starring Harrison Ford as the ruthless captain, was shown at the Venice Film Festival last month but has only now reached Russia, where it is to be screened nationwide.

Major malfunction

It tells the story of the Soviet Union's first nuclear submarine developing a major malfunction on a mission to prove Moscow's technical prowess to Washington at the height of the Cold War.

"K-19" is likely to touch a raw nerve with a nation still suffering from the trauma of the loss of 118 crew in the Kursk submarine disaster in August 2000.

Back in 1961, eight sailors died from radiation exposure as the K-19 crew struggled to pump seawater into the overheated reactor on the verge of explosion through a makeshift pipeline.

Although the plot is based on real-life events, producers added psychological drama to the storyline by pitting the hard-nosed captain played by Ford against his more compassionate second-in-command in a stand-off culminating in a riot.

That move won over few hearts among sailors proud of their unquestioning loyalty to the commander.

"For the crew to disobey the captain, it is unthinkable," said the craft's powerline supervisor Boris Kuzmin. "There was no panic at all. And the guns—they are sealed in a safebox and few people know where it is."

First script

"As for handcuffs, in 1961 even police did not have them. Forget about the submarine." The sailors said they had vetoed the first script of the film, which contained such scenes as a Russian officer sitting on top of the reactor and drinking vodka.

Director Kathryn Bigelow, speaking at a news conference after the film's gala premiere in St. Petersburg's magnificent Mariinsky Theater, said the team added imaginary conflict to the story for the benefit of viewers.

Despite the reservations, K-19 veterans were unanimous in giving high marks to the film, which for the first time in Hollywood history portrayed Soviet servicemen as heroes.

"Harrison Ford played really well. At one moment it even seemed to me he looked like our captain," said Shabanov. "The same austere features, only our captain was not that tall." *Reuters*

VETERANS of the Soviet K-19 nuclear submarine gave mixed reviews to the Hollywood film, based on their crew's story, praising the heroism portrayed by the actors but taking issue with what they called the film's many inaccuracies.

DIRECTOR Kathryn Bigelow cries during a news conference after the film's Russian premiere.

CHEF Rox's version of the Weck sandwich uses Vietnamese bread instead of a French baguette.

Weck sandwich at Katre hits the spot

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THIS you have to try! Katre, the Mediterranean restaurant along one of the side streets of Morato in Q.C., has moved to Dr. Lazcano also along Tomas Morato behind Alfredo's Steak House and BPI. Chef Rox decided it was time to move to greener pastures where he could serve more diners. He acquired a new, much bigger and nicer place. With the move has come a slow but sure expansion of his affordable and already delicious menu.

Entire menu

Happily, I am one of the eager guinea pigs of the place. I spend a lot of my evenings at Katre. I have tried the entire menu and am frequently at a loss about what to have. I have tried all the possible combinations.

We always experiment on new dishes. One evening, I was chatting with Chef Rox's, wife, Dra. Ruby, another food-tripper. We were sharing our many dining adventures while we lived abroad. One of the items she insisted I try was a specialty of the Buffalo in New York State, where they were based for many years.

Apart from the famous Buffalo chicken wings, the area also prides itself on a sandwich called Weck. If Philadelphia has a Philly Cheese Steak sandwich, the Buffalo has a "Weck."

Guinea pig

Of course, Chef Rox or Barok has his own interpretation of it. And being the guinea pig of the place, they twisted my arm to try it. This is a sliced beef sandwich served in a baguette and dipped in a gravy as you eat it. Well, the chef took it to the "lab" and came up with this winner.

He gets a Vietnamese bread (their version of the French baguette but crisper and more chewy), pan-toasts it in a little butter, puts a filling of thin slices of slowly oven-roasted and juicy Black Angus Prime Rib, plus salad and horseradish sauce on the side. This is served with the au jus of the roast also on the side.

What you do is grab that sucker with both hands and dip it in the jus, wipe some horse radish, take a bite, look up, close your eyes and experience heaven. This is one of the most delicious sandwiches I have ever experienced.

New discovery

I was so dumbfounded with this new discovery that I wanted a second one but was too embarrassed to be tagged a glutton. I dreamt about that sandwich until the next day. At this very moment, I am still thinking about it.

Occasionally, I will crave for their good, old slow-roasted Black Angus Prime Rib of Beef. Served with mashed potatoes in its natural juices, it is also a consistent winner. It comes with a hot cup of cream of mushroom soup and a plate of delicious salad. I suggest you go straight to the roast and have the salad on the side.

For those who, like me, try to stay away from meat, give yourself a break. Treat yourself, check this one out. It is worth breaking a diet for. Trust me.

Other dishes I trip on are his Black Pasta

WEEK/F2

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5. Deadline for all entries is on December 31, 2002, 7:00PM.
6. Winners will be drawn in Eat Bulaga at GMA-7 on January 15, 2003.
7. One (1) lucky winner of P1 million and ten (10) lucky winners of P100,000 will be drawn on this date.
8. A participant can only win once. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the higher raffle prize.
9. Winners will be notified via registered mail, print ad placement within a leading national newspaper and a raffle draw telecast over Eat Bulaga on January 15, 2003. Winners will be informed as to where, when and from whom to claim cash prize.
10. Winners will shoulder 20% tax on cash prizes for the raffle.
11. Winners must claim their prizes within 60 days from receipt of notification via registered mail.
12. Prizes can be claimed at KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD., 2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1299 during business hours.
13. To claim their prize, winners should present any valid identification (company ID, driver's license, birth certificate, SSS, passport) and registered mail sent by Ogilvy & Mather Philippines.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0251, Series of 2002.

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Crawly Cuisine Page 3
Story: Seven Years of Sun Page 6
Pet Mama Page 9
The Lunch Box Page 12

Merry Mooncake!

TWINKLING HANDS. First graders turn into stars on stage.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Xavier students celebrate the festival of the moon with song, poetry and mooncakes.

By Eline Santos

On the night when the moon is at its brightest best, Chinese around the world celebrate the Moon Festival. Also known as the Mooncake or Mid-Autumn Festival, it is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, which this year falls on September 21.

In the past, Xavier School celebrated the festival with a game of dice that had mooncakes for prizes. "Our father director removed it," says Luis Locsin, grade school student council president, "Because we forget the meaning of the mooncake festival."

This year, Xavier celebrated with a cultural night. Students from every level presented poetry, song, and dance to the delight of their family and friends.

The program opened with a lion dance, followed by poem and song numbers from the different levels. Most of the poetry spoke about the moon and the longing for home. The preschoolers, who wore red shirts with yellow collars, spiced up their number with ribbons, pinwheels, and confetti. They ended with a fun dash of glitter.

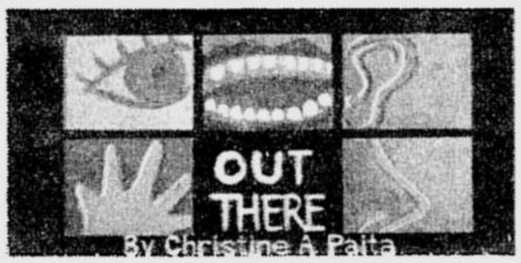
"Black light" was the secret of the first graders to make their number stand out. When they sang the Chinese version of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," they opened and closed their white-gloved hands at the same time. It really looked like twinkling stars had come down on stage! Their gloves and cardboard cutouts of a goose, moon and clouds glowed in the dark very nicely.

Second graders recited a poem on grass. "The mountain has a lot of grass," explains 8-year-old Kerwin Santos. "They die but fire can't burn it all. In spring, that's when they live again." Grade 3 students had a poem on the chirping of birds near a waterfall. They also sang a song to the tune of "Leron Leron Sinta."

Grade 4 students recited a poem from the Tang Dynasty on moonlight and bamboo. The sixth graders, in their yellow hats and black robes, spoke of a man who was mistaken as a stranger in his native place because he had been away for so long.

Highlights included the Sword Dance performed by high school senior Gerald Ko. The Grade 7 students' dance number was also a treat. Wearing orange shirts and red sashes shaped like a V, they gave an energetic number using two wooden rods and red flags. "It's an honor for us to dance," says Austin Uy, and his batchmates wholeheartedly agree. They say it took them only a week of daily practice to learn it.

Merry/ p. 4



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

SCIENCE CAMP. Wahoo! It's five days of mixing chemicals and fuming gases! Kidding, really. But if you like Chemistry, don't miss the **7th National Children's Science Interactive Workshop**. That's on Oct. 23-27 in Olongapo City. The workshop will feature hands-on experiments, games and other fun-filled activities, as well as exposure trips to the scenic spots of Subic. Contact the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs at (02) 920-8174 or 920-9561. Or e-mail psysc@vasia.com.

ART STROKES. Got nothing to do on weekends? Bring out those colored pencils and crayons and join Outlet Yard's art workshops this October. Lessons include Pastel Drawing, Oct. 19; **watercolor**, Oct. 12 and 20; and **oil painting**, Oct. 26 and 27, from 2-4 p.m. Outlet Yard is located at 1480 Quezon Ave., Quezon City (beside National Bookstore). For more info, please call 740-7221.

JOIN JKW. Kids 12 years old and below are invited to join the **Jollibee crafts workshops** today, Oct. 12. Check them out at these branches: Kalookan-LRT, Kalookan City—Clay Broochpin; Grand Central, Kalookan City—Pretty Pompom; Sta. Lucia Phase 1, Cainta—Glow in the Dark; Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, Cainta—Bunny Basket; Royal Family Mall, Valenzuela—Magic Slider; and Robinsons Metro East, Pasig City—Necklace Accessories. For more info, call Liza at 363-7659, or send an email to eserrano@info.com. ph.

Contests

SCI-ARTISTS. The Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology invites kids ages 10-13 to its **art contest**. The theme is "Batang Agham sa Bagong Milenyo." Get your registration forms from regional or provincial centers and division offices of the Department of Education and Department of Science and Technology. Deadline's on January 26 next year. For details, contact the National Secretariat c/o Sionie and Maureen at 536-3092, telefax 525-8418, or e-mail sci-art@philonline.com.

Events

MEET THE MONSTERS. Meet and pose with your favorite Sesame Street muppets **Cookie Monster, Elmo and the Count** on the following dates: Oct. 29 at SM Southmall, Las Piñas City; Oct. 12 and 30 at SM City Fairview; Oct. 20 at SM City Davao; Oct. 25 at SM City Manila, Oct. 26 at SM City Pampanga; and Oct. 27 and 31 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Fun begins at 2:30 and 4 p.m. Kids can also join the Sesame Street Drawing and Coloring Activity from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the following malls: SM Megamall and SM Manila on Oct. 14-17, SM Supercenter, Sucat and SM Pampanga on Oct. 18-20, and SM Southmall and SM Bacoor on Oct. 21-24.

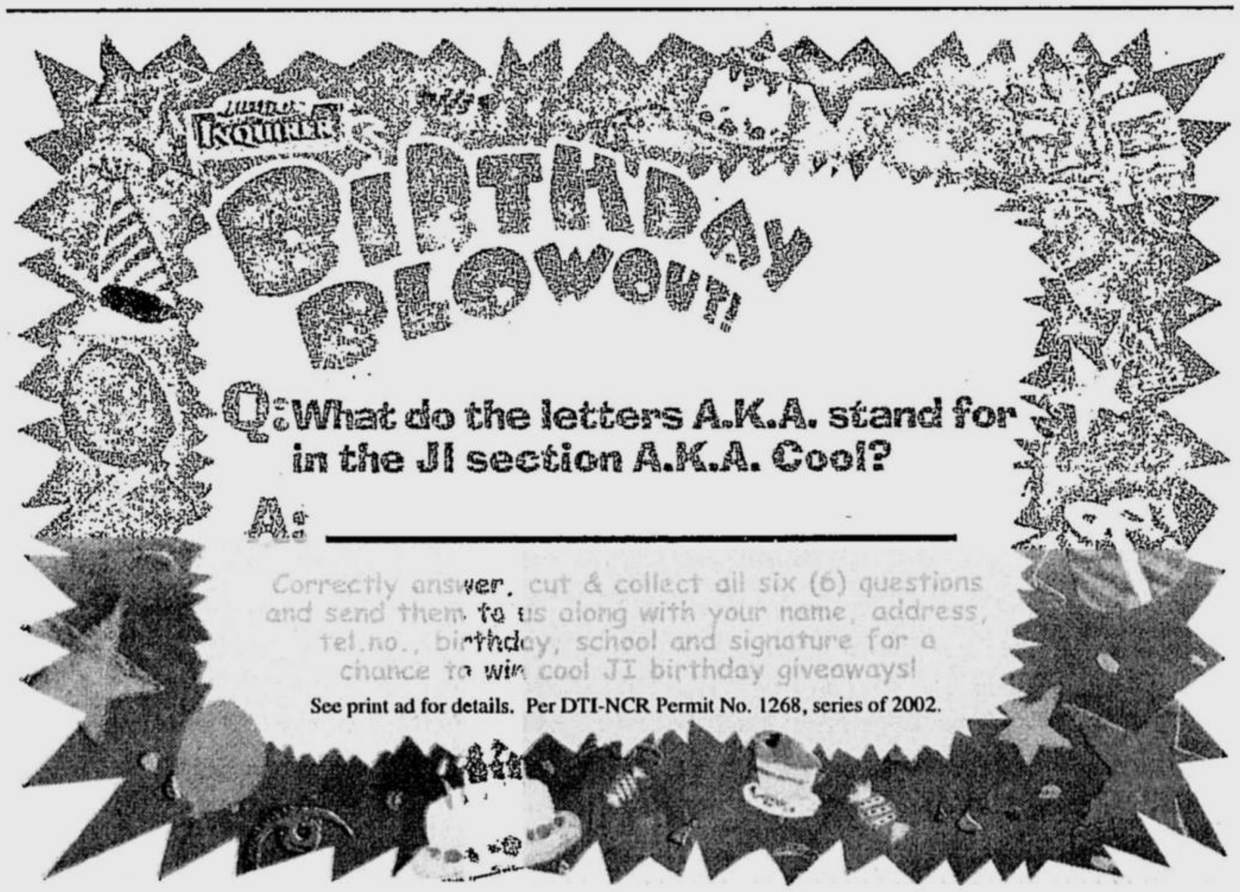
READ! The "Read to Lead Roadshow" goes to the malls. Catch the next show at Robinson's Place Ermita on Oct. 19.

Movie

KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI. Know about our legends! Come and watch "Kuwentong Kayumanggi," an original **Filipino animation** featuring Filipino myths and legends at Robinson's Movie World in Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Screening times are from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., Mondays through Sundays. You can catch this animation treat until November 30.

Cable Picks

EVOLUTION. Science and religion have different views about how man and the universe came to be. But these realms can be compatible. Find out how in **"Evolution: What About God?,"** airs on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 10 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.



THE wonder of evolution on National Geographic Channel.

World Scope

Tiniest MD-Walkman

JAPAN's electronics giant Sony is releasing the world's smallest and lightest Mini Disc recorder and player. Called "MD Walkman MZ-N10," the gadget measures no larger than the adult hand at 78.5 x 73.3 x 13.8mm. It is mounted on a cradle to connect to a PC for downloading music contents. The MD Walkman will be sold in Tokyo starting next month. It will cost around 40,000 yen or P16,700. *AFP*

The Emotions of Dogs

WANNA learn how to read your pet dog's emotions better? If droop of brow, tone of bark and wag of tail are not enough, check out this gadget called "Bowlingual." Japanese toy maker Takara has thought of technology that analyzes a dog's voice with a wireless microphone attached to a dog collar. Sales of the gadget have gone through the woof since its release last month. *AFP*

Creepy Crawly Cuisine

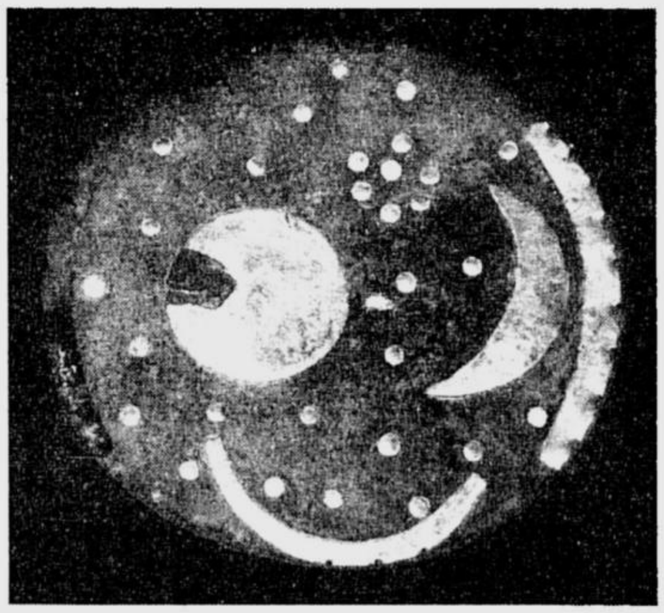
A VENDOR displays deep fried skewered scorpions, left, cicadas, right, and other insects he sells at a snack stand in Beijing. Many Chinese believe eating the insects is good for their health. *AP*

Father and Son for Peace & Justice

A MAN and his son on a tandem bicycle participate in a demonstration in Washington D.C.

The rally was against the words of war towards Iraq from the administration of US President George W. Bush.

The march, held in Washington D.C., was one of many held during the last week of September against unfair policies of World Bank International Monetary Fund towards small countries. *AFP*



Oldest Sky Picture

THE so called "Star Disk of Nebra," dated to the early Bronze age (about 3,600 years old) is seen after it was identified as the oldest picture of the firmament world wide. The gold foil ornaments are arranged to create a picture of the firmament showing stars, the sun or moon. It is thought to be older than the Egyptian pictures of the firmament that are known from pharaonic graves. The disk and other bronze objects were discovered near Nebra, about 270 kilometres southwest of Berlin by local looters in July 1999 during illegal excavations of a possible cult monument. *Reuters*

Merry Mooncake! (from page 1)

Mmmm... Mooncake!

Most of the students will tell you that the best part of the Mooncake Festival is the mooncake itself.

Michael Jeremy Ubamos, a 7-year-old second grader says it best. "I love the Mooncake Festival because there are many mooncakes to eat. It makes my heart giggly. The heart will say, 'Wow, yummy! So tasty!'"

The toothsome round cakes have sweet fillings such as lotus seed paste, red bean or black bean paste. Kind of like hopia, only much better. They may also have salted egg yolk added to the mix.

"It's good," Xavier students gush. In previous years, they used to play a game with dice to win mooncakes for prizes. The biggest mooncake "is about the size of a pizza," say the Grade 7 students. Pearson Lim, who was the lucky winner last year, reports it took him three weeks to finish the treat.

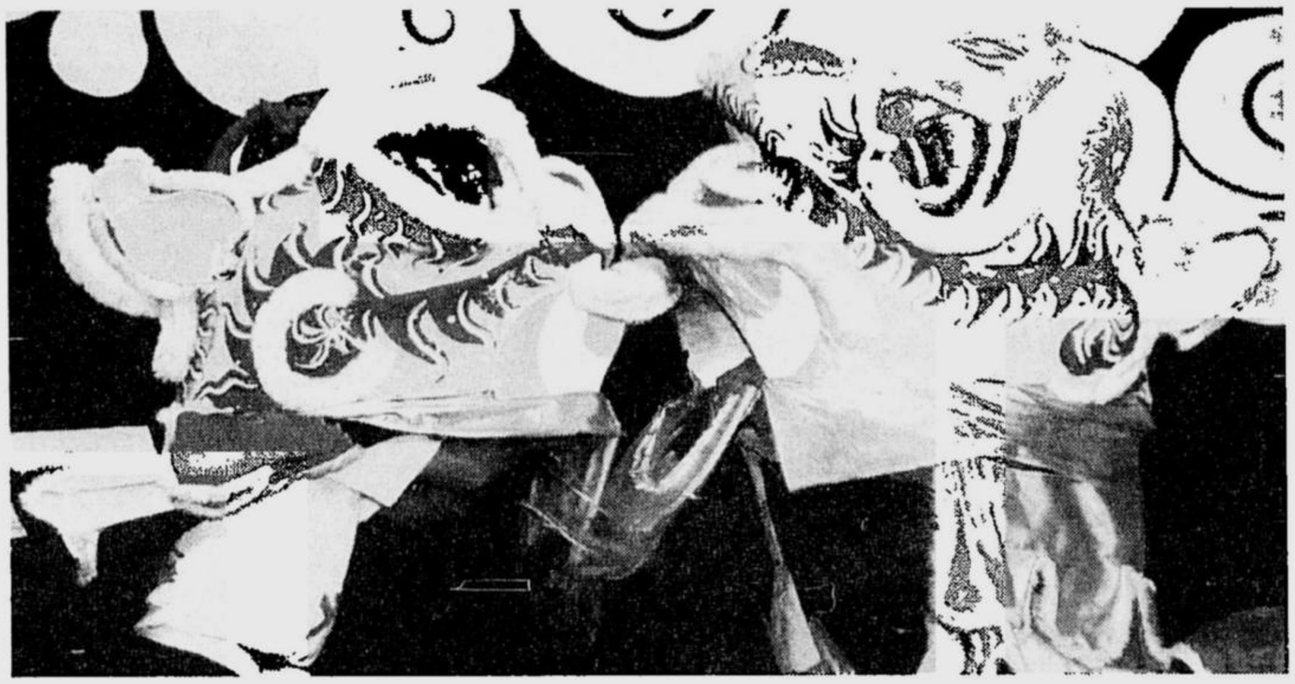
The mooncake winner is also said to have good luck for the coming year. "It's lucky if you share it," clarifies Lorenzo Mangubat, who played a violin solo number about the moon at the cultural presentation.

No problem since mooncake giving is a traditional part of the festival. Family, particularly parents and grandparents, are the student's first pick to give mooncakes to.

"It shows the tradition of generosity," says seventh grader Kenn Chua. "The mooncake is a symbol of generosity."

"It is a very important celebration because it is to remind the Chinese of freedom," Sean Aquilino joins in.

SECOND graders mimic grass with green crepe paper. ROMY HOMILLADA



LION-husband and lioness wife kiss during the traditional lion dance. ROMY HOMILLADA

Stories of the Moon

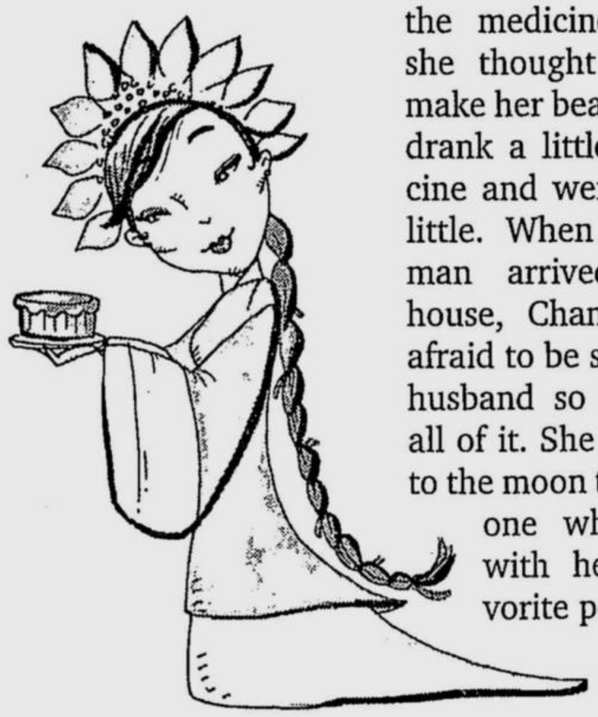
Many stories are told about the moon festival, one of which is about the mooncake's possible role in Chinese history. The Mongols conquered China in the thirteenth century, but the Chinese threw off their oppressors in 1368 AD. "They had to give secret messages around by putting messages in the cake," says Luis Locsin. With the help of the harmless-looking sweets, the rebellion successfully took place.

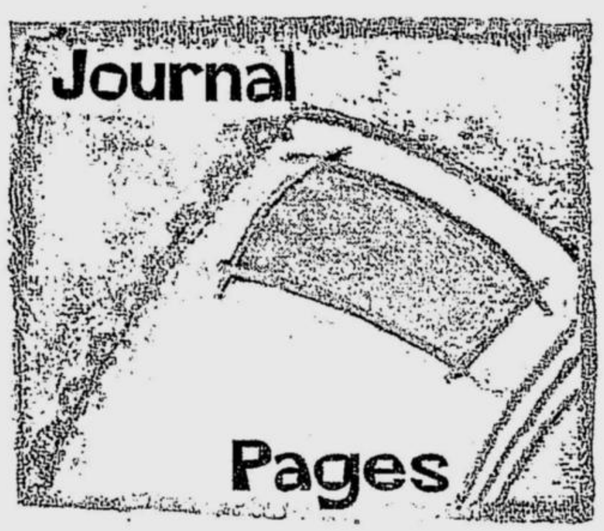
"I like that one because it tells how the Chinese people used their minds to save their land," says Grade 3 student Vincent Velez.

Another legend tells of a time when ten suns took turns lighting the sky. But one day all ten suns came out at the same time threatening to burn everything up! The Emperor thus summoned the famous archer, Hou Yi, to shoot down the nine extra suns.

Hou Yi did shoot down the extra suns and saved the world from fiery destruction. As a reward, the Goddess of Western Heaven gave him a pill that would make him immortal. However his wife, Chang Er, found the pill, took it and floated to the moon as a result. Legend says that her beauty is greatest on the day of the Mooncake Festival.

Other versions of the story abound, as Kurt Tanyu, Grade 6, tells one that he likes. "There was a bowman who was so boastful about his ability," he says. The archer shot down the suns until only one was left but this time a god reduced his life to forty years so the bowman had to find medicine to prolong his life. "His wife Chang Er, was very interested in the medicine because she thought it would make her beautiful. She drank a little of medicine and went flying a little. When the bowman arrived at the house, Chang Er was afraid to be seen by her husband so she drank all of it. She floated up to the moon taking only one white rabbit with her, her favorite pet."





Martina, My Teacher

By Aliza P. Caronongan
Tahanan Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila

WATCHING television during my spare time usually relaxes me. I get so stressed from too much studying! But, while other kids my age watch MTV, I settle down with my family and watch tennis.

We recently finished watching the Australian Open. Who would have thought that Jennifer Capriati would have won the Women's Singles Final against Martina Hingis? But no matter what the score was, Hingis was always my bet.

I love watching Martina Hingis play. She sets her mind on a goal she wants to accomplish and just does her best.

I know she lost the Australian Open last year. But I think she really tried her best to reach the Finals and defeat Capriati to win her title back.

I really cannot imagine how much this 21-year-old woman accomplishes. At that age, she's already a great tennis player!

Because Hingis is my hero, I've been motivated to approach my problems, my studies and my goals differently. Hingis is very determined and persevering. Because of her, I've learned how to aim straight at a goal and do it no matter how many obstacles are blocking me.

Because of Hingis, I have excelled in fields that I really like and am good at: piano playing and ballet dancing.

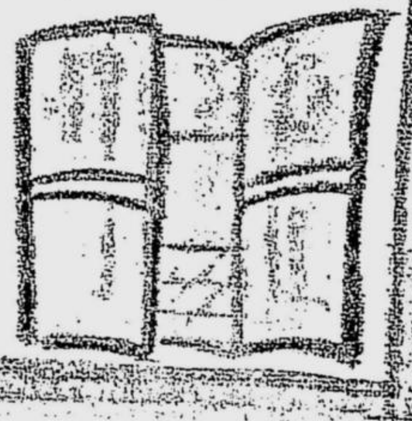
Finally, I learned how to smile no matter what happens. Hingis smiled all the way through the Women's Doubles Final even though her opponents were beating her team. As a student, pianist and ballerina, I have a lot of people to thank for their motivation. But for now, what's important is I found Martina Hingis and she's made such a difference in my life.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Fabulous JI!

DEAR Editor,

I find it fascinating that you feature young people's ideas and opinions! I think the Inquirer has a big advantage over others because of this.

I really enjoy answering your "Thinkathon" portion. It helps me learn lots of facts about different topics. Because of this, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. You're a great editor and you bring out the best in us kids and teens. Thank you to the other staff of JI too for this wonderful magazine for kids.—**AUBREY HERMOSURA**, 15, Arellano University Plaridel High School, Mandaluyong City

Dear Aubrey,

*Thank you for your kind words! It warms our hearts and makes our job even more fun and fulfilling!—**The Editor***

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Seven Years of Sun

Story and Illustrations by Alex Quicho

THE humans have been on Solaria for as long as they can remember, but few know why they came. Some say they were evacuated from Earth before the gigantic asteroid hit. Their first few days in space were pure terror. The pitiful remainder of the once numerous human race watched their planet explode as they were shuttled off to Solaria.

Solaria was a beautiful place. It was covered in oceans of blue sands. Jutting out of the land like some huge beast loomed purple mountains of Nuclea. The tall mottled orange and yellow trees reached up to touch the burning red faces of Solaria's twin suns. It only rained once every seven years.

HUMANS and the alien species, Solarisans, both inhabited Solaria but looked different in so many ways.

Solarisans had bright yellow eyes and a variety of colored tentacles growing out of their dry, green oblong heads.

Humans were dark-skinned from toiling under the hot rays of Solaria's suns. The Solarisans' green skin covered their four, long scaly arms and their two tree-trunk legs. Each limb was tipped with lethal claws and long, thin fingers.

There was only one city on Solaria, which was the magnificent bubble city of Solaris. There were two bubbles covering the city—a hard, tinted one that got darker or lighter depending on the strength of the rays, and a soft, stretchy bubble that allowed air to come in and out of the city. The tinted bubble was on the inside, but had minuscule holes for ventilation. Homes and buildings were made of translucent bubbles and each was equipped with solar-generators and air-conditioning.

MAYA, a scientist, had a very relaxed appearance but her real self was much different. She had short, blonde hair and bright blue eyes that looked like glistening pools of water.

Her hair was as golden as the beak of a bird and shone like the glistening bubbles of Solaris. Unlike everyone else in Solaris, she was as pale as the tiny clouds that rarely drifted above Solaris. She was always thinking up new things and often worried about them.

While she was working on her computer, her pocket moisture alarm started beeping and she excitedly ran out to the outer bubble to have a look. Sure enough, tiny clouds started to clump together and darken. Maya took a reading and hurried back inside.

WHEN Maya was certain that the clouds

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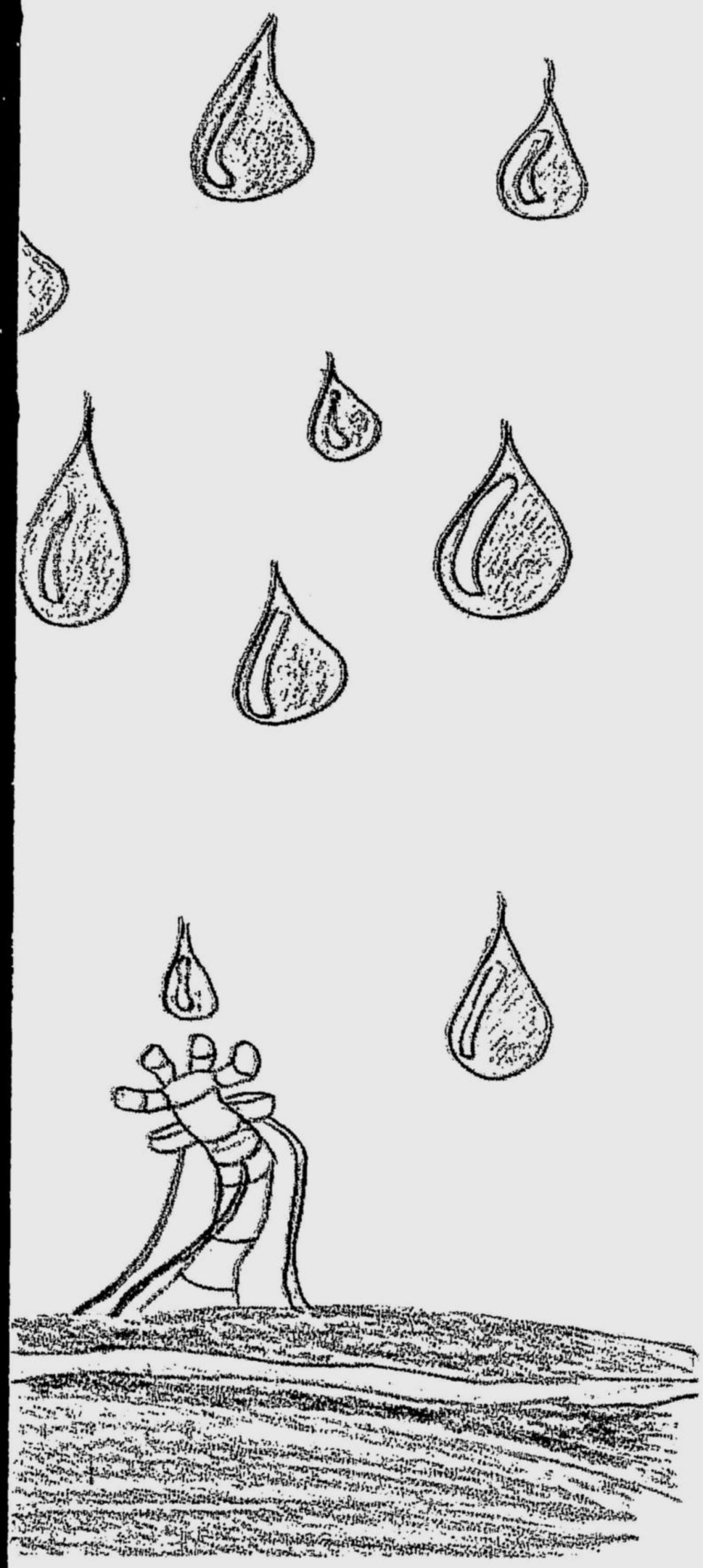
Two Hours of Rain



were approaching, she prepared the equipment. She activated the long, mechanical arms that rose out of the oceans of sand. Around each arm were buckets of various sizes to collect water. Tubes snaked out of the bottoms of the buckets and attached themselves to a huge pipe that slithered into Solaris. Metal tables emerged from the sands like spiders as thermometers, computers and test tubes appeared on the tabletops.

"All ready!" Maya called out to the eager scientists behind her.

The clouds rolled in like soft, gray blankets and it began to rain. Raindrops the size of space shuttles thundered onto the sand. The bright trees spread their leaves to lick up the water like thirsty dogs. The outer bubble shuddered violently each time a raindrop hit it.

Everyone rushed outside, pulling out their personal equipment to catch the rain. The mechanical arms moved towards the closest raindrop. Solarisans kept huge contraptions that sucked up the raindrops. Humans stuck all their pots and pans together and rushed helter-skelter to catch each raindrop.

"Whoo! I feel young again!" Maya laughed as she disappeared under a huge raindrop.

"You are!" Jamie, her best friend, reminded her.

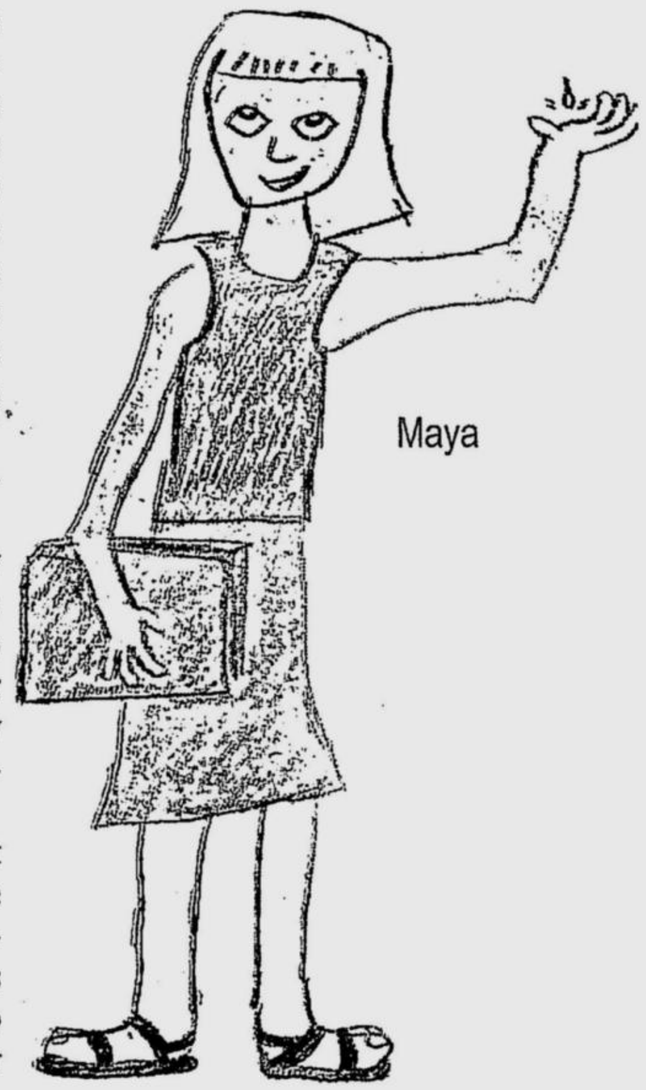
"Oh, yeah."

SUDDENLY, somebody yelled that there was a blockage. Maya abruptly stopped laughing. She ran over to the gigantic pipe that transported all their water into Solaris. In its middle was a huge lump. Water was pushing madly against it like a demented beast that wanted to escape.

"What happened?" Jamie demanded as she ran over.

"There's something in that pipe," Maya replied.

They worked and worked. After thirty minutes, there was a loud POP! and the water along with the chunk of rock ("I



Maya

wonder how that got there," Maya thought.) that was blocking up the pipe gushed out. Finally it was fixed, but they had lost all their water.

The people of Solaris had finally received water from Aquatica, a nearby planet submerged in water, and relaxed. Maya sipped a glass of water as she calculated.

"Another seven years for another two hours of rain."

Alex is a 12-year-old Filipino student who lives and studies in Vancouver, Canada. Her essay, "Furry Art," was adjudged as the best essay in the Class D category (students 11 years of age and under) and won for the province of British Columbia. The essay was sent to London for the international finals of the Commonwealth-wide Prizes of the Royal Commonwealth Society Essay Competition.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Filipino Animation for the Filipino Kids

By Mae Astrid Tobias

MOVE over Son Gokou and Powerpuff Girls! We have a new set of heroes in town. They are just as powerful and adventurous but more importantly, they are all Filipinos.

Kids, we would like you to meet Datu Mabiskeg, Dagohoy, Araw and Buwan. They are main characters of "Kwentong Kayumanggi."

"Kwentong Kayumanggi" is a trilogy of Filipino myths and legends that came from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, the three main island groups of our country.

VOICE talent Michael V. with kids and Francis M.

It is an original animated feature created by ArtFarm Asia Animation and Digital Exchange.

Datu Mabiskeg is the hero in the tale that comes from Luzon. In the "Legend of the One Hundred Islands," he is a young prince who has been training all his life to become a skillful warrior. But he wishes he would not need to use them.

From Visayas, there's Dagohoy, the boy who can run as fast as the wind. He goes up against cruel colonial invaders that threaten his land. Araw and Buwan are immortal beings from Mindanao whose love story explains why night and day are separated.

Tough Work

"Animation is no joke!" said Mina Caliguia, managing owner of ArtFarm Asia.

For "Kwentong Kayumanggi," they started out with zero funds. The project is a labor of love for many animators and actors who worked gladly for free. Among them is actor and comedian Michael V.

DAGOHOY

Daddy's Voice

Michael V. narrated the English version of Dagohoy. He says, voice acting for "Kwentong Kayumanggi" was different from his usual work. He brought his two children, Milo, 8, and Yanni, 4, to the gala screening last month.

"I don't know if they'll realize it's me," Michael admitted because he has told his kids he was a narrator. He hopes "Kwentong Kayumanggi" succeeds so that there will be more projects like it. He even shared how in the future he might work with ArtFarm Asia again but this time to animate a comic book he made.

Pinoy man, gid!

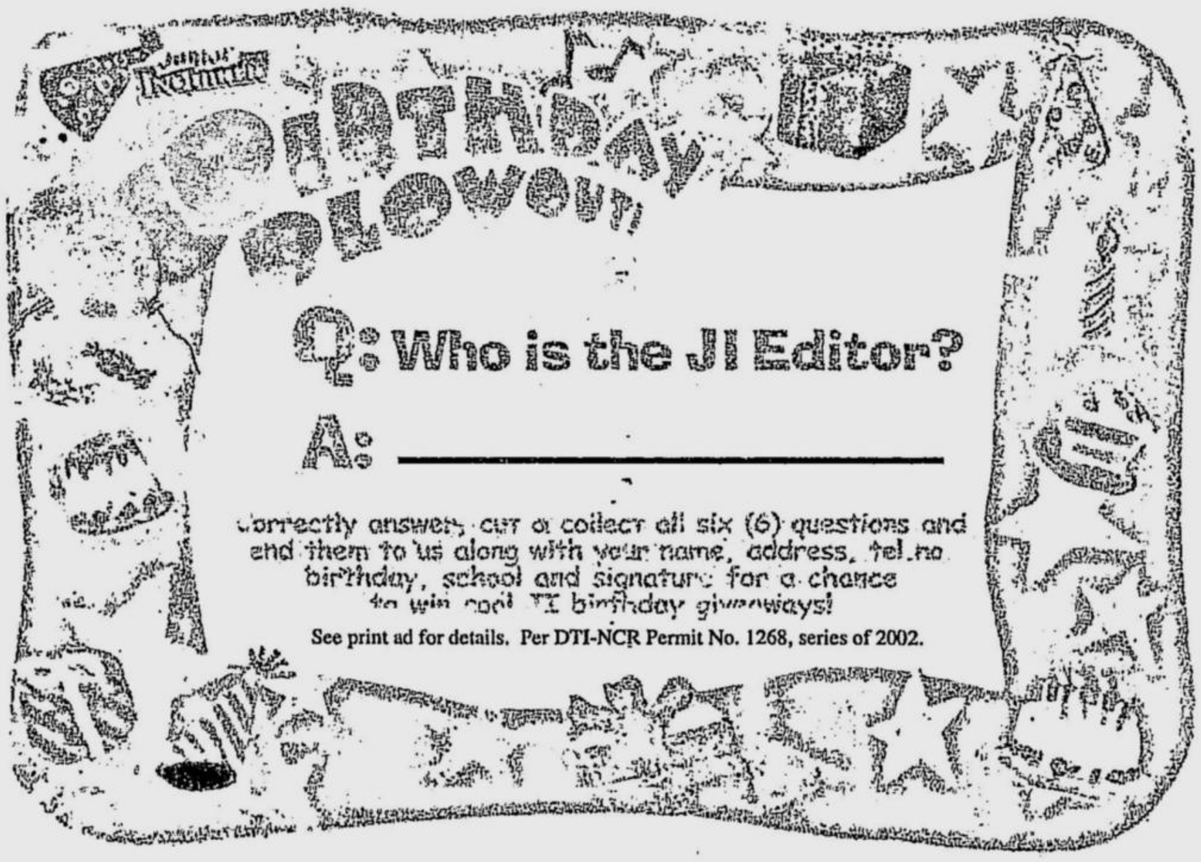
Tito Romero, one of Kwentong Kayumanggi's animators, has been an animator for 20 years and has worked with cartoon series like "Scooby Doo," "The Flintstones," the "Smurfs," and "X-Men."

DATU Mabiskeg

He feels more proud with his work with "Kwentong Kayumanggi" because the work is truly Filipino.

"It is a proof of what the Filipino can contribute globally," he said. "It also promotes the Filipino talents."

"Kwentong Kayumanggi" will run in some selected theaters, so try to catch it if you can!



Pet Protector

Yasmin is a pet mom any furry, feathered or scaled creature would love to have

By Eline Santos

"I have never bought a dog in my life," says Yasmin Jadwani, who amazingly owns 21 dogs and 45 cats. "As long as there are unwanted dogs and cats in the world, I will never buy a dog or a cat."

Yup, all her pets are adopted, not including the 15 neighborhood cats who visit their house at feeding time.

Yasmin is just one of the passionate animal lovers who put up CARA-Philippines. CARA stands for Compassion and Responsibility towards Animals.

Tender Loving Care

"We got together to figure out how to improve the plight of animals," Yasmin says. The group advocates animal birth control (ABC) and teaching loving care (TLC).

To prevent dogs from being euthanized because of overpopulation, the group advocates spaying and neutering.

"When a dog winds up in a shelter or a pound, their future is very, very uncertain," says Yasmin. "The clock is ticking."

But she doesn't advise everyone to go and save a pet from the shelter.

Responsibility

"Taking on a dog is like taking on a young child that will remain a young child for the rest of its life. If you're willing to make that commitment, get a dog," she encourages. But, "if you're not willing to give of yourself where time is concerned, where emotions are concerned, and finances are concerned, don't get a dog."

She adds that adopting a pet is a family decision. "The family must make a joint decision, 'Are you willing to take care of this child 'til the end of this child's life?'"

Pets Are Not Toys

Yasmin doesn't like it that some people think of a pet as a toy that can be thrown away when it's old or broken. Some of the pets they adopted were abused.

"They carry the emotional load of the abuse," says Yasmin. But they are happy with her. "In my office they hang around me. In my house they hang around me. The older ones sleep with me in the bedroom."

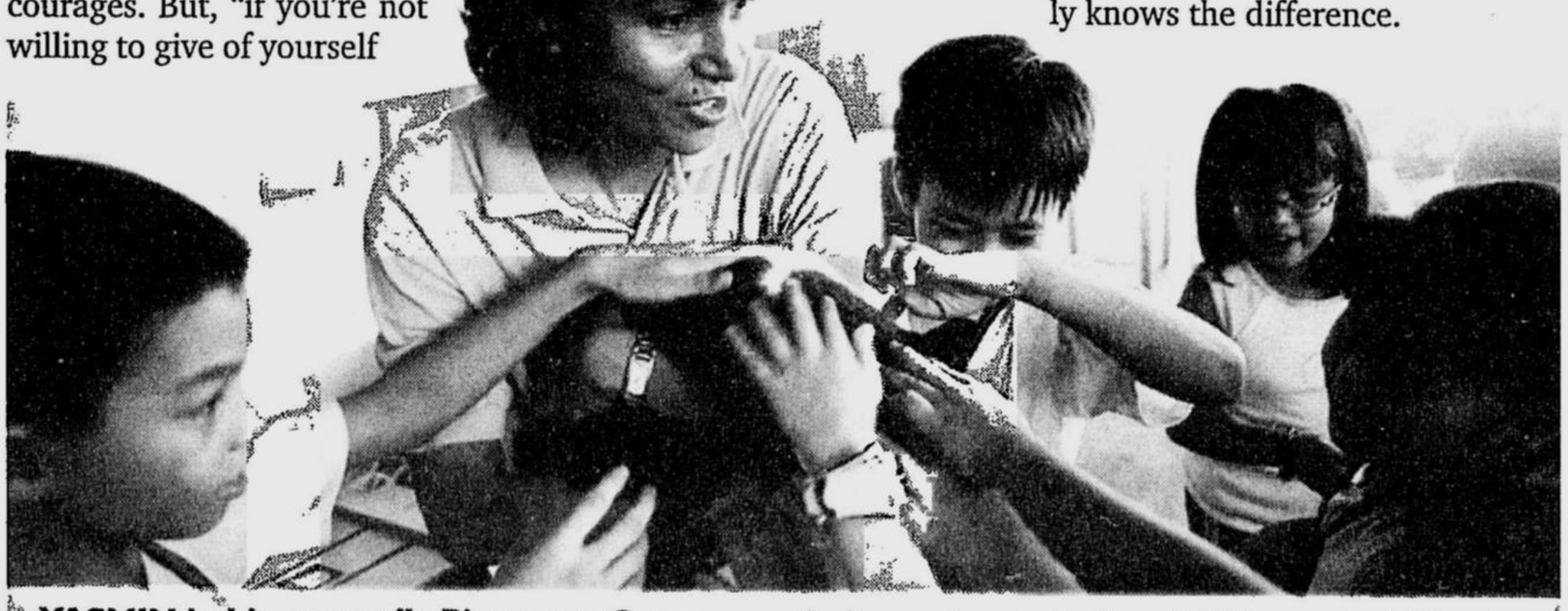
Proudly Pinoy

Tiny Tina is a sleek and beautiful dog. She's also proudly Pinoy.

"When people have a dog they tell me, 'It's just a native.' The 'just' is already a condemnation which excuses the fact that perhaps he doesn't go to the vet, doesn't eat the proper diet," says Yasmin.

They make sure that they bring "proudly Pinoy" dogs and cats to schools when they teach loving care of animals to kids. The beauty of the animals help change people's minds about discriminating against native animals.

"We say there are no good dogs and no bad dogs. Only good owners and bad owners," says Yasmin. And Tiny Tina, along with 80 dogs and cats, certainly knows the difference.



YASMIN holds a proudly Pinoy cat, Gorgeous, who's proving to be irresistible to the kids of International Christian School in Greenhills. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
Is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is _____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_____;
2)_____;
3)_____;
4)_____;
5)_____;

My nominee lives a_____
_ _____.
Give him/her a call at _____
or send him/her an e-mail at _____
_____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm_____ years old.
My address is_____
_____.
You may call me at_____
_____.

MICHELLE Tagud drums it up for God. RANDY HORMILLOSA

PARUMPAPUMPUM. Michelle Sarah Yango gets the congregation into the groove. BETOY JOHNSON

The Drummer Girls

Two girls, two drum sets and their rhythms

By Margaux Ortiz

AT first glance, you would think that these two girls have nothing in common. They live at the far ends of Metro Manila: one in Fairview and the other in Muntinlupa. They also go to different schools and one is four years older than the other.

But the two girls are not really as different as they might seem. They both have the same passion for playing the drums and dream of also mastering the violin someday. Both were given most talented awards in school because of their exceptional gifts in music. They also honed their skills at playing their favorite percussion instrument during their weekly church services. And they are both named Michelle.

Michelle Sarah

Ten-year-old Michelle Sarah Yango learned to play the drums at the age of seven. Because the members of her family play active parts in their church's music ministry, she was exposed to music at such an early age.

"I was particularly interested at playing the drums," the fifth grader at Spring Christian School enthuses.

She picked up the drumsticks after the ministry's practices and initially played the drums for fun. Her family soon discovered that she had an ear for music and enrolled her in formal lessons.

"I won't forget the time I was given the Most Outstanding Performer award when our music school held a recital last year," smiles Michelle. She even bested other students twice her age.

The Other Michelle

Michelle Tagud, a sophomore at School of St. Anthony, first tried beating the drums when she was 11. Another church member taught her the basics, and like Michelle Sarah, soon discovered that she had an ear for playing the instrument.

"Not many people would believe that I could play the drums," says the 14-year-old. "They think that I'm too frail and that only boys could play the drums well, which is not true of course."

Aside from the drums, Michelle can also play the recorder flute, banduria, lyre, piano and the guitar. She can also sing and is part of a choir as well.

"But the drums have a special place in my heart," shares Michelle. "They are very important because they serve as the backbone in every musical endeavor and every song."

The two Michelles believe that not everyone is given the same opportunity to learn playing the instrument they love so well. They are making the most out of it by giving their gifts back to God through playing the drums in church services and teaching others who want to be drummers like them.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

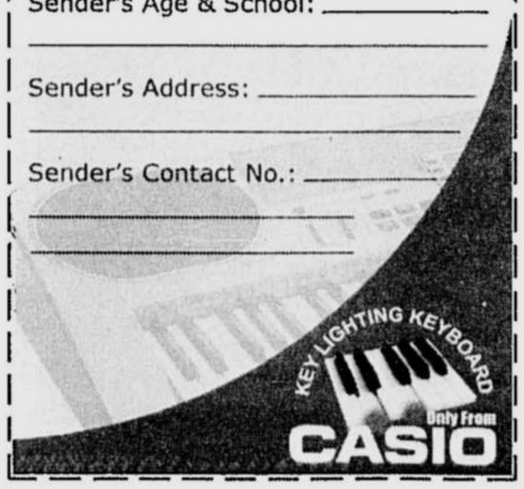
Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No.: _____



IN OTHER WORDS

1. **What is the Golden Rule?**
A. "God helps those who help themselves."
B. "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."
C. "Do to others what you would have them do to you."

2. **"Actions speak louder than words" means:**
X. deeds are meaningful while talk is cheap
Y. words outlast deeds
Z. weigh the consequences before acting

3. **If a deal or agreement is bona fide:**
A. it is made in good faith
B. the payment is in cash
C. it favors one party

4. **A person who promises to "turn over a new leaf" aims to:**
X. change his or her behavior
Y. read more books
Z. plant a tree

5. **If you want to make a remark on familial closeness, you might say:**
A. "Blood is thicker than water."
B. "Familiarity breeds contempt."
C. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

6. **What is "a wolf in sheep clothing" doing?**
X. showing off the latest fashion
Y. pretending to love animals
Z. hiding ill will with an outward display of good nature

7. **If you "bury the hatchet," you:**
A. ignore an insult
B. make peace
C. hide something bad

8. **Something that is described as "run-of-the-mill" is:**
X. ordinary
Y. unique
Z. refined

9. **To express optimism in times of gloom, you might say:**
A. "We will cross our bridge when we get there."
B. "Still waters run deep."
C. "Every cloud has a silver lining."

10. **If a speaker talks ad infinitum, he or she:**
X. speaks without notes
Y. is selling a time-tested product
Z. goes on without limit

Answers:

1. C	6. Z
2. X	7. B
3. A	8. X
4. X	9. C
5. A	10. Z

Ratings:

Super cm!	excellent	good!
9-10	7-8	5-6

CASIO • JUNIORINQUIRER

Search for 'Rrific Kids

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
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Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
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I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
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3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:
JUNIORINQUIRER
'KIDS R 'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured in the page, will get a FREE Junior Inquirer – CASIO EMI T-Shirt & a P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER

CASIO JUNIORINQUIRER P300

PLUS! At the end of the year, Top 3 'Rrific Kids for 2002 will be chosen & shall bring home a

CASIO KEYLIGHTING KEYBOARD

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

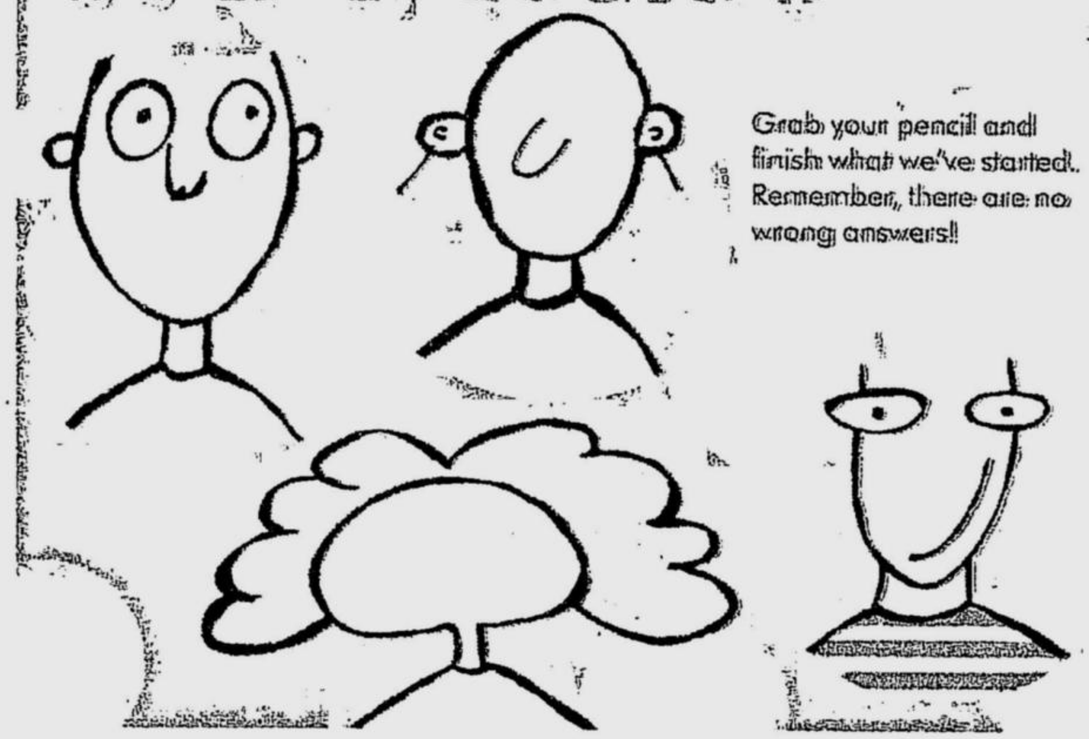
a web of facts..

Do you know which of these are true about spiders?

- Spiders have six legs.
- Spiders have eight eyes.
- All spiders spin silk, but not all make webs.
- All spiders are poisonous.

ANSWER: This is a trick question. All are true.

WACKY ENDINGS



Grab your pencil and finish what we've started. Remember, there are no wrong answers!!

THIS IS A JOB FOR...

Match the objects to the jobs they're connected with.

botanist

prestidigitator*

*A fancy name for "magician"

chef

podiatrist

architect

ANSWERS: Chef-dessert, Botanist-plant, Podiatrist-foot, Prestidigitator-rabbit and hat, Architect-buildings

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

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by Katrina B. Villa

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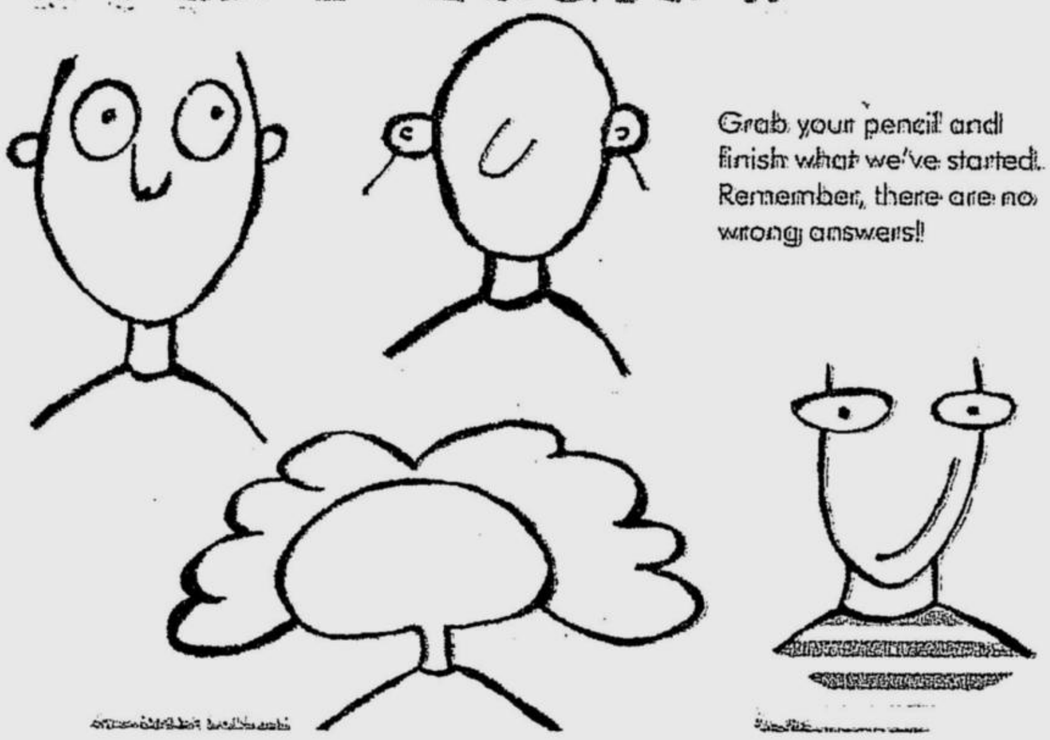
ANSWER: Two. Yes, they have eight eyes. Not all are poisonous.

WACKY ENDINGS



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